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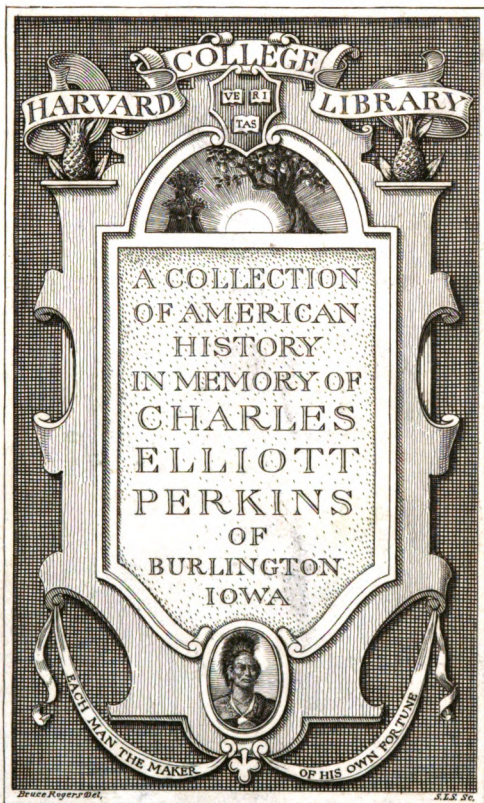
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HISTORY

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OF THE

SAGINAW VALLEY,

ITS RESOURCES,

PROGRESS

AND

BUSINESS INTERESTS

By TRUMAN B. FOX.

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EAST SAGINAW, MICH.

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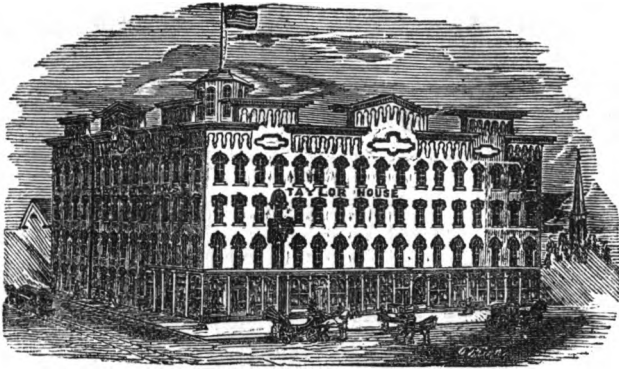
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**EAST SAGINAW, MICH.**

HISTORY  
OF THE  
SAGINAW VALLEY,  
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EAST SAGINAW, MICH.  
DAILY COURIER STEAM JOB PRINT, BUCKHOUT BLOCK.

1868.



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## INTRODUCTORY.

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Nearly eleven years ago the writer of this published a pamphlet entitled "A History of Saginaw County," in which he endeavored to give a correct idea of its growth, its advantages, resources, and early history. At that time the facilities for publishing such a work were meagre indeed, and although the materials were abundant, it required the most strenuous exertions and perseverance to collect them. The roads were almost impassable, the Flint and Saginaw plank road being the only plank, and in fact the only tolerable road of any kind in the Saginaw Valley. No bridges spanned the rivers; no public stage routes, save that to Flint, afforded means of transit; no railroads, with their thundering locomotives and rolling palaces, had as yet made our acquaintance; street railways were unheard of among us; horses and carriages were few and far between, there being in reality but little use for them—in short, although we prided ourselves on our greatness as a community, we literally possessed no facilities whatever when compared with those of to-day. Then it took at least three days to visit Detroit and return. Now we take a leisurely breakfast at home, step on board the cars, take our dinner either in Detroit, Jackson or Lansing, as we may elect, spend four or five hours in business or pleasure at these places, and then saunter at our leisure into a splendid car, and arrive home in time to take tea with our families the same day.

In reviewing the history of Saginaw, we shall endeavor to treat candidly and impartially the various subjects connected with it,

simply stating facts and showing figures, and leaving all comments for the reader, except such as would naturally be expected in noticing the development and progress of matters pertaining to us. In speaking of Saginaw we do not propose to make any invidious distinction of localities, but shall speak of it as a unit, embracing all the business points on the river, as possessing an identity of interest, stimulated only by a laudable emulation, and together comprising one great commercial community, characterized alike by thrift, enterprise and brotherly feeling. Of course, in a small pamphlet, it cannot be expected that a full history of all the cities and towns in the valley will be given, but we will endeavor to give a synopsis of everything of importance, hoping thereby to furnish a work that can be sent by mail, and impart to those abroad some idea of Saginaw.



## THE FIRST SETTLEMENT.

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Up to the year 1818, the vast expanse of territory lying north of Detroit, to the upper Lakes, was an unbroken forest. No human footstep save that of the native red man, or an adventurous trapper had ever fallen, to disturb the mighty solitude that reigned supreme through all that vast domain. Wild bands of Indians roamed unrestrained through the forests, and paddled their birchen canoes or bathed in our beautiful streams, as yet undisturbed by the inventions and innovations of the "pale face." But the fiat of civilization had gone forth, the red man's doom had been pronounced, and the hunting ground of his fathers was destined to pass into the hands of the white man, while he himself was to become a stranger in the land that gave him birth.

During the winter of this year (1818) Orson Allen commenced the first white settlement north of Detroit, where Pontiac now stands, in Oakland county. Detroit was, of course, his nearest and only trading point. The following September, General Lewis Cass, then in the strength of his manhood, concluded a treaty with the Chippewa Indians at Saginaw, which secured to our government an extensive tract of territory, the southern boundary line of which passed near Springfield, Oakland county, running northeast to Lake Huron, west into Livingston county, then north to the headwaters of Thunder Bay river, including a portion if not all of the rich and fertile valley of the Saginaw.

In the year 1822, two companies of United States troops were stationed where Saginaw City now stands, for the purpose of protecting the fur trade and watching the movements of the Indians, who at times were inclined to be mischievous. Prior to the arrival of the troops, Saginaw had been used as an Indian trading



post, although by no regularly organized companies, but by individuals, who bartered with the Indians for their furs, giving in exchange whisky, blankets, beads, etc. We are indebted to Hon. Zina Pitcher of Detroit, for information concerning the arrival and departure of the troops, together with other interesting facts. He says:

"In June, 1822, having been appointed an assistant surgeon in the army, I received an order to report to Major Daniel Baker, of the 3d Regiment of United States Infantry, then stationed at Green Bay, who, with two companies of that regiment, I was informed, would arrive at Saginaw about the 20th of July, the troops to reach their destination by transports from Fort Howard, and I by land from Detroit. Finding a guide in the person of the late Captain Knaggs of Detroit, who was then agent for the Saginaws, we made our way through the woods by an Indian trail, from Williams' Mill, situated where the village of Waterford, Oakland County, is now located, to the wigwam of the old chief Kish-ka-ko, on the east side of the Saginaw river, where we arrived just in time to see the troops pitching their tents on the other side. The vessels by which this detachment was transported from Green Bay, I believe did not enter the mouth of the river, the men composing it and their supplies being conveyed from the Saginaw Bay to the site selected for the post in small boats. The officers of this detachment were Major Daniel Baker, Capt. John Garland, Lieuts. Edward Brooks, Otis Wheeler and Henry Bainbridge. Capt. S. H. Webb, and Lieuts. Baker and Allen, the last two of whom died here, joined a short time afterwards. John Dean, (the sutler,) Thomas C. Sheldon, Chauncey Bush and Elliot Gray, also had business connections with the command of Major Baker.

"These persons, with the enlisted men and the families of Baker, Garland and Brooks, constituted the little military colony which laid the foundation of Saginaw City. Joseph Campau and family, Antoine Campau, Archibald Lyons, (Indian interpreter,) Mr. Provensal, (Indian blacksmith,) Mr. Corben, and a Frenchman whose name I have forgotten, (Indian farmer) made up the civil commu-

nity. The road from Saginaw to Smith's trading house on Flint river, where Flint city now stands, was cut in the winter of 1822-3, by a party of soldiers commanded by Lieuts. Brooks and Bainbridge, the latter of whom served his country honorably from that time, including the Mexican war, and lost his life a few years since in the Gulf of Mexico, by the burning of a steamer on which he was a passenger.

"The winter of 1822-3 was very cold, and much snow fell. When spring came on, the rapid solution of it caused a great flood in the Tittabawassee and other tributaries of the Saginaw, so that most of the prairie between the post and Green Point was under water. The succeeding summer was very warm, and the troops being unused to the climate, became sickly as early as July, when, late the following fall, they abandoned the fort and moved to Detroit by water, in two schooners, one commanded by Capt. Keith and the other by Capt. Walker. Before the military occupancy of the Saginaw river, a Mr. Hudson had made an attempt to evangelize the Saginaws, but meeting with no success, he had left the place before the troops under the command of Baker arrived, leaving behind an unfinished house on the east side of the river, some distance below the old Saginaw City ferry."

It would seem that when the treaty was made with the Saginaw Indians, they were to have a blacksmith and a missionary sent to them. Accordingly Mr. Hudson came among them in the latter capacity. The probabilities are that this man of God's influence with them, when brought to bear with the villainous whisky of the trader, had but little weight, and they therefore being annoyed at the restrictions which the Missionary's presence placed upon them, sent back word to Washington that they had too much missionary, and wanted to swap him off for another blacksmith. Grieved in spirit at the perverseness of the "untutored Indian," the good man packed up his few effects, and turned his back forever upon the home of the Saginaws.

Among those who died at the fort were a brother and son-in-law of Major Baker, the commandant. This event so disheartened the

Major, together with the many hardships and privations to which the troops were subjected, that he reported to the Department that the climate was so unhealthy that "nothing but Indians, muskrats, and bullfrogs could possibly subsist here." Nor was it strange that himself and those under his command should yield to the discouragements of the times, for here they were far from their homes, in the midst of a howling wilderness, surrounded by untamed savages, whose mighty whoopings and infernal pow wow orgies were more appalling than even the cries of the wild beasts, and exposed to the extremes of a climate to which they were unused. No wonder, therefore, that the order for their removal was hailed with delight by the poor troops.

In the fall of 1824, the American Fur Company established a trading post at Saginaw, taking partial possession of the block houses which were erected in and about the stockade used by the troops. William McDonald, a stirring, whole-souled Scotchman, had the management of the Company's affairs. The fort, or stockade, rather, was constructed upon the brow of the hill, near where the Taylor house stands, and commanded a view of the river from Green Point to some distance below, where it was lost sight of in the wild, unbroken forests that skirted it upon either side.

A few years after, the Hon. Gardner D. Williams purchased the interests of the American Fur Company here, and established himself as an Indian trader. There were here, then, besides himself, the families of Louis Campau and John B. Cushway. At that time (1827) but two white families resided between Waterford, eight miles north of Pontiac, and Saginaw, and these belonged to Rufus W. Stevens and his father, who lived at Grand Blanc, Genesee county. Aside from the small "clearings" of these two families, the whole tract of territory lying between the above named points was one unbroken wilderness. In my sketch of Saginaw City, I shall endeavor to resume its early history, and condense it to the present time.

The Saginaw Indians at that time were composed of Chippewas, mostly, although occasionally an Ottawa half-breed might have

been found among them; and they were governed by a chief (a usurper in power) named Kish-ka-ko, a miserable tyrant, a villainous coward and a drunken sot. The early settlers of Oakland county were very much annoyed by this chief and his cowardly band, as they passed through that section of the country, on their way to Malden, to receive their annual presents from the British Government. Kish-ka-ko was in the habit of traveling with thirty or forty companions whom he called his warriors, and taking advantage of the sparseness of the settlements upon the borders, would levy contributions upon the poor settlers, who could ill afford to furnish supplies to others, having all they could do to get along themselves. If the old chief's demands were not speedily complied with, he would take what he wanted by main force, such as cattle, hogs, grain, etc., thus subjecting the settlers to great suffering and continual fear. Upon one occasion, after his arrival in Detroit, which happened a few days before payment day, his men being hungry, he applied to the authorities for food, saying, "unless my young men get something to eat, it will be impossible for me to restrain them from robbing the settlers along the route." "Sir," returned Gen. Lewis Cass, "if your young men commit any more depredations, upon the settlers, I will send my young men to punish them!"

Kish-ka-ko at length came to his end in a manner strikingly in keeping with his wicked and cowardly career. One day while encamped at a place a little above Detroit, known as the Chein Farm, he got into a drunken row and killed an Indian. He was arrested by the civil authorities, and imprisoned in the old Detroit jail, where he remained several months. Feeling assured from his past conduct that he need expect no mercy or lenity from the hands of those he had so often outraged, he anticipated the law by taking poison supposed to have been provided for him by his squaws.

His successor was O-ge-maw-geg-a-too, which signifies the Chief Speaker. He was in every respect antipodal to Kish-ka-ko, being a high-minded and an honorable man, a great favorite with the



whites and an eloquent speaker, but at times much given to dissipation. He was not the head chief by birth, but merely by promotion or appointment, on account of the loftiness of his style, the beauty of his expression, and his powerful and commanding eloquence, which always carried conviction with it. The chief proper was Miz-co-be-na-sa, signifying the Red Bird. He was a quiet, unassuming man, possessing no desire whatever for fame—no aspirations after greatness. Only give him his pipe and tobacco pouch well filled, and place by his side a jug of fire water, and he cared but little if anything about affairs of Indian state. He had, however, been considerable of a warrior in his day, but the fire of youth had passed away, and with it all the energies and ambitions of a youthful spirit. It is a melancholy and lamentable fact that as the country becomes settled by the whites, the native energy and spirit of the red man grows less and droops, for he beholds the broad domains which his fathers possessed, in the hands of the pale face—he sees the graves of the chosen of his race desecrated by strangers, and the cherished hunting grounds which were his own melting away before the sun of civilization. As society advances, the red man recedes and degenerates, and one would hardly recognize in the miserable, filthy wretch that brings berries, baskets and muskrat skins into our cities and towns to exchange them for food and whisky to-day, the once noble and lordly possessor of the soil.

Although many other chiefs besides those mentioned by us, ruled their tribes in the Saginaw country, at various times since the opening of our history, the above were really the only ones of any note. Old Knock-a-chick-a-ma is at present chief of the fragmentary tribes that roam through the valley. He is a venerable and patriarchal-looking Indian, possessing not a little of the dignity of his forefathers, and intensely fond of the scoot-a-wah-boo of the pale face, which he imbibes with true Indian stoicism.

During the summer of 1837, the small pox broke out among the Saginaw Indians, making fearful havoc among them and taking off half if not two-thirds of their number to the hunting grounds of

the Great Spirit. Their bloated corpses were found lying in every direction; now in thickets, where the poor creatures had crawled to shield them from the rays of the burning sun; now half immersed in the bayous or floating down the rivers into which they had fallen in their feeble endeavors to cool the dreadful fever which was consuming them. Not a single white person in the whole valley was attacked with this fearful disease—a circumstance which led the Indians to believe that the Great Spirit was punishing the children for some outrageous sin committed by the fathers generations before.

The whole number of Indians in the Saginaw Valley at present, cannot exceed five hundred souls. A few are engaged in farming, but the majority lead a desultory, roaming life, without any apparent aim or object in view.

Although it would be no difficult matter to point out to the stranger the location of Saginaw as it appears on the map, with its beautiful rivers, and the little dots representing its cities and villages, it would be a thankless task to attempt by maps, or even words, to convey to his mind any adequate idea of the growth, progress and importance of the Saginaw Valley. By reference to the map of Michigan, the reader will observe that the Saginaw country occupies nearly a central position in the State, and is not, as many have idly imagined, in an extreme northern latitude, and almost beyond the reach of civilization. Indeed, but a few years ago, this portion of the State was considered almost unapproachable, and even after getting here, not fit to locate upon.

The Saginaw Valley proper is comprised of the counties of Saginaw and Bay, although in a general sense a portion of the counties of Tuscola and Midland, including a goodly stretch of the Bay shore, are usually embraced in the term. We intend, however, to treat more particularly upon the Saginaw Valley proper, and should space permit, allude briefly to those other counties, so far as their interests are identified with ours. There are in Saginaw and Bay counties about 650,000 acres, a small portion of which have been set down in the field notes as swamp lands. Actual survey and a looking up of these lands have proven that a great portion

of them marked thus are among the finest farming lands in Michigan, susceptible of the highest state of culture. Many farms thus entered have not the least appearance of swamp lands about them, but, on the other hand, contain splendid uplands, well timbered with beach, maple and oak. There are, it is true, in the vicinity of the Bay, and along some of the rivers, some wet prairie lands, which, with but few exceptions, are far from being useless, for they furnish thousands of tons of very good hay annually, which often brings in the market, from eight to ten dollars a ton.

#### FACE OF THE COUNTRY—SOIL.

The impression seems to have gone forth that the face of the country is low and monotonous, and unrelieved by hill, or dale, or upland. Now in the immediate vicinity of some of the rivers and the bay, this may to a certain extent be true; but away from these there are to be found, in localities all over the Saginaw country, beautiful rolling lands and splendid ridges, covered with a luxuriant growth of every species of timber peculiar to this latitude. The bottom lands that abound in the Saginaws must not be confounded with the wet prairie that skirts some of our streams. While the latter is usually part and parcel, so to speak, of the stream itself, being covered with wild rice or tall, rank grass and reeds, and is submerged a good portion of the season, acting in sympathy with the natural rise and fall of the streams, being about upon a level with them, the former also skirt the rivers and water courses, but lie several feet above the ordinary water mark, and in their native state are lined with a rich growth of walnut, linden, soft maple and wild plums. These trees are usually festooned with grape vines, which attain to immense size and produce abundant fruit. The soil is composed of the richest alluvial formation. These lands, of course, are subject to inundation, usually in the early spring, the waters receding in time for the farmer to prepare the soil for seed. The strength of this soil is wonderful, and the crops it produces, particularly cereals, are remunerative in the highest degree. The bottoms also afford the best meadow lands in the world, yielding not less than two tons of hay to the acre. The

advantage these lands possess over the rolling or higher lands is they seldom if ever suffer from a drouth. During the present almost unparalleled hot season for this region, we have taken occasion to observe the effects of the drouth in various localities in the valley. While corn was literally rolling together like a scroll, and vegetation generally upon the more elevated farms suffered severely, those crops which grew on the bottom lands looked fresh, vigorous, and full of vitality. Another error in regard to the Saginaw lands seems to have crept into the minds of casual visitors to the valley. Because large tracts in different portions of Saginaw and Bay counties are level and seemingly monotonous, and at certain seasons of the year, especially late in the fall and in early spring, wet and forbidding, they have been pronounced by casual visitors wholly unfit for cultivation, because in their minds they could not be drained, and thus warmed into life and usefulness. That such an impression should have been received at first sight, without a knowledge of facts, is not strange, but we are prepared to prove that there is not an acre of land in the Saginaw Valley, with the exception, it is true, of the wet prairie bordering on the streams, but that can be drained and rendered susceptible of a high state of cultivation, no matter how apparently unredeemable said land may have appeared. Take, for instance, the low, wet bayou land that spread over a large tract of the city of East Saginaw but a year or two ago. This was known to be a perfect quagmire—the abode of innumerable reptiles, and from whose bosom noxious vapors and miasmas were constantly arising, to the detriment of good health and comfort. Many supposed there was no remedy for it, as the level condition of the country would not admit of drainage, so for years it remained a perfect nuisance and a stench in the nostrils of decency. After awhile some long-headed individual discovered that this quagmire was located several feet above the level of the river. Measures were at once adopted by our city fathers, to have it drained, and a brick sewer was accordingly built, leading to the river, at a cost of about \$16,000. To-day the spot where this quagmire was, is perfectly dry, and a portion of it covered

with buildings and fine gardens. So, also, have we seen many other parcels of land in the vicinity of our towns which were considered about worthless on account of their spongy proclivities, redeemed and made valuable by a proper system of drainage. In this connection it is gratifying to know that a thorough system of ditching and drainage has been adopted in this county, and commissioners have been at work for some time in opening long lines of ditches, thus affording facilities for draining lands in every portion of the country.

#### RIVERS.

Nature has furnished the Saginaw country with an abundance of drains and irrigators in the way of rivers, there being not less than ten dignified with the name, besides a number of small streams.

THE SAGINAW RIVER divides the counties of Saginaw and Bay nearly east and west, and is one of the largest and most beautiful streams in the State. It is navigable for first class steamers and vessels, and is about twenty-five miles in length, being formed by the Cass from the east, the Flint and Shiawassee from the south, and the Tittabawassee from the northwest. It pursues a northeasterly course, and empties into the head of Saginaw Bay. It varies in depth from fifteen to twenty feet, and its average width is about 240 yards. The banks of the river in some places are quite bold, while in others they are low and skirted with wet prairie. One peculiarity of the Saginaw river and its tributaries, is observable in the numerous coves or bayous which diverge from them, in many instances extending miles into the country, and are often deeper than the rivers themselves. A few years ago, before these bayous were used by boom companies and lumber and salt manufacturers, they were bordered with a plentiful growth of wild rice, and were consequently the resort of all kinds of aquatic fowls, especially ducks, which during the fall of the year, when the rice was ripe, came hither in "clouds," to fatten upon it, thus affording rare sport for gentlemen of leisure. This river, during the early spring, is subject to inundation, caused by the rapid solution of the ice in the upper streams, and the great masses of snow that accu-



mulate in the dark forests of pine and hemlock that lie along their banks. To this river as a basis, the rich and fertile valley of the Saginaw is indebted for its wealth, its wonderful growth and prosperity. While it serves as an outlet for a vast expanse of country above and around us, millions of logs are annually floated down it, and converted into lumber by the almost innumerable mills that line its shores its entire length. And its commerce, which but a few short years ago was confined to the transactions of a limited number of small steamboats and vessels, has now swelled to enormous proportions. Vessels load at our docks with products of the valley, which they ship, without interruption, directly to European ports, and lines of first class steamboats bring us into direct communication with points which until recently were considered almost as the antipodes. The first dock erected on this river was built at Saginaw City, about the year 1836, in connection with an extensive warehouse, now used as a shook factory, by Mr. D. B. Ketchem. To-day it would be a difficult task to number the docks and wharves that line the Saginaw river, connected with warehouses, mills, salt works, etc. The original Indian name of this river was Sac-haw-ning, signifying the place or home of the Sacs, as this nation was supposed to have been the early possessors of the valley. We shall have occasion to speak of this river again.

**TITTABAWASSEE RIVER** —This is a magnificent stream, rising in the northern portion of the State, pursuing a southeasterly course, and emptying into the Saginaw. Its depth is from four to ten feet, and its width about fifty yards. It is navigable for small steamboats to Midland City, a flourishing village about thirty miles from its mouth. This river passes through some of the finest farming lands in the State, and the banks, in many places, rise from ten to twenty-five feet above the level of the stream. Nothing can exceed the beauty and romantic appearance of the Tittabawassee during the summer season. The high banks, covered with verdure, are crowned with rich forests of maple, elm and butternut, whose foliage is often festooned with the twining grape and ivy, giving them a singularly beautiful and attractive appearance, as

they overhang the bright river and mirror themselves upon its laughing surface. Some rich bottom lands are found skirting this stream, which equal if not exceed, in strength and durability of soil, the far-famed valley of Genessee, in the State of New York. All along this river may be seen finely cultivated farms, with good orchards, substantial dwellings, and well stocked. Indeed, the oldest farms in Saginaw county are located upon the banks of this stream, some of which produce all kinds of fruit in abundance. At the county agricultural fairs held in East Saginaw, the samples of fruits of almost every variety and species, together with vegetables and grains raised here, astonished visitors from other States and counties, by their wonderful perfection and superior excellence. Upon the banks of this river may also be found, in exhaustless quantities, after removing the rich soil, deposits of brick clay. A large number of brick yards have been in active operation here, for several years, and the brick manufactured, with all the modern improvements, are exceeded in no other locality. This river is the only lumber thoroughfare for the vast region of pine that lies above, embracing an area of upward of one hundred miles in extent. The number of feet of pine logs rafted out of this stream during the year 1866, was 186,000,000. The Tittabawassee Boom Company, which was organized in 1864, has about thirteen miles of booms, and employs during the active season, between 200 and 300 men, besides expending for rope alone, for rafting purposes, about \$20,000.

**CASS RIVER.**—This river rises in Sanilac county, pursues a southwesterly direction, and empties into the Saginaw about three miles above Saginaw City. Its banks in some places are low, while in others they are bold. Rich bottom lands are found in its vicinity, as well as heavy timber, and some oak openings. This river passes through some of the most charming and beautiful country in the world, and affords an outlet for millions of feet of pine lumber every year, heavy forests of which skirt it for many miles. During the year 1867, the Huron Log Boom Company rafted out about 72,000,000 feet of pine logs. A number of flour-

ishing villages are located upon its banks, together with many finely cultivated farms. The farming lands all along this river are superior, and great inducements are held out to actual settlers, who are not slow in taking advantage of them. In 1837, Mr. E. W. Perry, now of this city, commenced clearing the floodwood from this river, which to him appeared to have been the accumulation of ages. It was, however, an absolute necessity, as he had recently erected a sawmill in Tuscola county, upon Perry Creek, near Cass river, and having made a contract to furnish lumber to the company engaged in building the Webster House, in Saginaw City, there was no other possible means of delivering the lumber but through the medium of this stream. After months of toil, the Herculean task of clearing out the obstructions was accomplished, although at the expense of health, and quite a fortune expended by Mr. Perry from his own means.

The original name of this river was Onottowaysebewing, signifying the home of the Onottoways, who resided upon its banks long years ago.

**FLINT RIVER.**—This river, whose Indian name is Pe-wa-ne-go-ink-sebe, takes its rise in the southeastern corner of Lapeer county, pursues first a northwesterly, then a southwesterly course through part of the county, after which it changes to a northwesterly course, and empties into the Saginaw river a few miles above East Saginaw. Its banks, not unlike those of the other rivers, vary in height, there being some low places and bottom lands skirting it, highly enriched by inundation. Pine in abundance is found in the vicinity of this river, although many miles above. In 1865, 30,000,000 feet of pine logs were rafted out, while in 1867, there were not 6,000,000, all told, boomed there. This falling off is not attributed to the particular decrease of pine along this river, but to the increase of mills near its headwaters, which very naturally cut off the great supplies that formerly were rafted into the Saginaw. There are splendid farming lands all along the route of this river, and many improved and well stocked farms show that this

fact has not been overlooked by the shrewd seekers after homes and comforts.

**SHIAWASSEE RIVER.**—This is a large tributary of the Saginaw, and a rapid, beautiful stream. It rises in the interior of Livingston and Oakland counties, pursues a meandering, northwesterly course through the county of Shiawassee, and joins the Flint to help form the Saginaw, a few miles above Saginaw City. Near its mouth it is low and marshy, but as you advance up the stream, the aspect changes, and farming lands with improved farms appear, to gladden the eye. The soil is exceeding fertile, being in many places of alluvial formation. An excellent quality of stone coal is found along this stream, which bids fair to become a source of considerable profit to those engaged in exhuming it. This river retains its original name, which signifies beautiful or delightful.

**BAD RIVER** rises near the southern limits of Saginaw County, pursues a northerly course, and empties into the Hare river proper, a tributary of the Shiawassee. The lands bordering this stream are rich bottoms, generally, and make good farms. This river also affords an outlet for millions of feet of pine logs, which are cut upon it and its tributaries. In the year 1866, not far from 23,000,000 of feet were rafted down by the Bad River Boom Company.

**MICHESNEE.**—This is a small stream originating in the western part of Saginaw county, and emptying into the Saginaw river about two miles above the mouth of the Flint. Good farming lands abound in this vicinity, some of which are being improved.

**MISHTEGAYOCK.**—This stream rises in the southern part of Genesee and Shiawassee counties, pursues a northerly course, and flows into the Flint river three miles above its mouth. It is about forty miles in length, and runs nearly midway between the Shiawassee and Flint, until it discharges into the latter. Some splendid farming lands and fine timber are found in the neighborhood of this stream.

**KAW-KAW-LIN RIVER.**—This rises in Arenac and Midland counties, pursues a southeasterly course through Midland and Bay

counties, then northeast into Midland again, thence east, and empties into the southwestern extremity of Saginaw Bay, not far from the mouth of Saginaw river. The banks of this stream are low in many places, the soil being rich and productive, and susceptible of high cultivation. About two miles from its mouth, a few years ago, there was an Indian village and mission, but it was vacated by the Indians, who left to take possession of lands donated farther west, by the Government. Quite extensive lumbering operations are now being carried on here, by Messrs. Ballou & Kaiser, and other parties. About 14,000,000 feet of logs were got out here by these parties, and by them converted into lumber.

HARE RIVER, to which Bad river is tributary, empties into the Shiawassee twelve miles above Saginaw City. It passes through occasional groves of good timber, and the soil along its banks is finely adapted to farming purposes, being rich and durable.

In addition to the above are a number of smaller streams, among which are the Ma-qu-na-ka-see, or Bear Creek, Che-boy-gun, Zaw-wis-haw-ning, or place for bass, and Squy-haw-ning, or last place, so called because near its mouth is an island supposed to have been the place where the last or decisive battle was fought between the Sacs and Chippewas, in which the destiny of the former tribe was decided, they being completely routed and nearly annihilated. The first of these streams rises in Tuscola county and empties into the southeastern extremity of Saginaw Bay. The second also rises in the same county, and flows northwesterly into the Saginaw river, about eight miles from the Bay. The third rises in the northern part of Bay county, flowing into the Saginaw river about seven miles from the Bay. The fourth originates in the northwestern part of Bay county, flowing east into the Saginaw river, about six miles from its mouth. These streams are mostly skirted with prairie and bottom lands, with an occasional show of timber. Upon some of these streams may be found cultivated farms, and upon the Cheboygan an Indian village containing about fifteen families, is located.

## TIMBER.

The Saginaw Valley furnishes an excellent and valuable variety of timber, including oak, beech, maple, (hard and soft,) hickory, blackwalnut, butternut, cherry, basswood, ash, elm, pine and hemlock. The oak found here is excelled by none in the Union in point of toughness, flexibility, elasticity and durability, which properties render it invaluable for ship and steamboat building. It has been pronounced by competent judges, to be equal to the old English ship oak, and superior to most of the oak found elsewhere in the United States, it having been thoroughly tested by shipbuilders here, who stand ready to vouch for the truth of the statement. This oak is found in large quantities throughout the valley. There are, however, several kinds of oak here, viz., white or upland, black, red, yellow, swamp, and some scrub oak. The white and swamp oak are used for shipbuilding and staves. The manufacture of all kinds of staves is carried on in the valley upon an extensive scale. Of this branch of industry we shall have occasion to speak again. It is confidently affirmed by those well informed upon the subject, that there is enough stave oak in the valley, notwithstanding the great inroads made upon it, to furnish an extensive trade in that direction for many years to come. The basswood, or linn, which is found in abundance, is discovered to be of great utility in ship building, and many other kinds of business where flexible lumber is required. The pine, of which we shall speak in another place, aside from the lumber it yields, furnishes superb spars for vessels. The hard or sugar maple is a beautiful tree, and the pride and glory of an American forest. It is not alone its beauty and magnificence that render it an object of pride, but the happy combination of the useful and ornamental which it possesses. While this tree is eagerly sought after for its shade, timber, lumber, and the superior firewood it makes, it is highly valuable on account of the immense quantity of excellent sugar which is annually manufactured from the rich saccharine sap that flows from it during the spring months. The soil in which the maple is found, and also beech, is always considered of a superior

quality, being generally of a dark, sandy loam, varying from fourteen inches to two feet in depth, of a rich alluvial formation, covering a substratum of clay, and almost entirely free from stones. The butternut and soft maple are usually found upon the rich bottom lands that skirt the streams, while the blackwalnut, hickory and cherry, all of which are valuable, grow more abundantly upon the lands farther back, or uplands. A few oak openings are found in some portions of the valley, the soil of which, although not possessing the strength and durability of the timbered land, is finely adapted to agricultural purposes.

The following able and interesting article relating to the lumber regions of Michigan, written by Rev. C. H. Brigham of Ann Arbor, was handed us, with a request to insert it in our pamphlet. We do so with pleasure, as it covers a portion of the ground proposed by us in the original plan of our work. We commence with

#### THE PINE LANDS OF MICHIGAN.

The "lumber region" is the region in which the pine grows in sufficient quantities and of suitable size for use in the saw mills. There may be a pine country which is not really a lumber country, as, for instance, the old colony of Massachusetts. It is not necessary, to make a good lumber region, that the pine should be the exclusive growth, or that it should grow in large, compact masses. The best pine is found among trees of firmer grain. The pineries of Michigan differ from those of the Eastern States, in being less homogenous. On the best pine lands the quantity of hard wood is often considerably greater than that of pine. The lumberman picks his trees from the mass, and after he has cut all the lumber from a tract, an unpracticed eye might not see that anything of importance had been taken off from it. If the settler does not come after him with axe and fire, the breach in a little time will seem to be healed, though the pine does not grow again. Though the stumps and roots of the pines are slow to decay, and vex the farmer by their obstinate vitality, they send up no fresh shoots.

#### VARIETIES OF PINE.

The pine which grows in this lumber region is of excellent quality, free from defects, and fit for all the uses to which that wood is put. There are three varieties: the tough, straight-grained wood, from which the best boards are made; the "sap," or sapling pine, used for fences, floors, and work in which nice finish is not required; and the Norway pine, which supplies a wood that decays

slowly, and is used for bridges, docks, and vehicles of various kinds. All these varieties are easily wrought, and the Cork and Norway pine are wholly free from pitch. The Cork pine trees are often found of a very large size. It is not uncommon to get perfectly straight stems 80 and 100 feet in height, measuring six feet in diameter at the base. Logs less than three feet in diameter are counted "under size" by many lumbermen. There is comparatively little wood of irregular or inferior growth, and the lumberman has much less to reject as not worth cutting, than in the Eastern forests.

#### FOREST LIFE.

Year by year, as the wood is cut off, the lumberman has to go farther in from the main stream, and the log has a longer journey to make before it gets to the mill. The first party of woodmen usually go out in November; as soon as the ground begins to freeze, they select a place for their camp as nearly as possible in the centre of the "lot" which they are to work upon, taking care to get a dry soil in the neighborhood of some spring or brook; they build a log house, and cut a road to the nearest stream, on which the logs must be floated down. The log houses are large enough to accommodate from twenty to fifty persons. In the centre a raised fireplace is built, directly under the apex of the roof, and the only chimney is a tunnel above this fireplace. The work of wood-cutting begins as soon as the road is finished and the ground becomes hard enough to haul the logs—usually early in December—and it is continued until the stream breaks up in the spring. The daily wood-chopping begins with the early morning, and is kept up as long as there is light. In the evenings the woodmen sit around their fire, play cards, smoke their pipes, tell stories, and sometimes get up rude dances. There is very little drinking among them during the season of work in the woods. Sutlers are not allowed upon the premises, and the men have usually no money to buy liquor. They are paid by the day, and supplied with suitable food by their employers. Pork and beans, dried fish, bread and tea, are the most approved articles of diet. Coffee is not generally provided, and the delicacies consist chiefly in the wild game which the woodmen themselves may chance to catch. There is plenty of this to be had, if there were time to take it, for the woods are still full of squirrels, rabbits, coons, deer, and black bears, whose flesh is not unpalatable; the streams, too, are full of fish. But the men are too busy in their craft to do much fishing or hunting, and are content with their simple but nourishing regular fare. In addition to their "nourishment," they get, on an average, about \$1 per day for their labor. The whole gain of a lumberman in his winter's work is about \$100, which a new suit of clothes and a few weeks of sport in the spring generally exhaust. The life of lumbermen is like



that of sailors, and very few lay up the fruits of their toil. In character, the men are quite as good as the average of those who lead a roving life. A large number of them work in the mills in the summer season. Some go on farther west, and others go home to their friends in Canada or Maine. Comparatively few of the wood-choppers are Germans or Irishmen, though there are parties of both these races. They are gregarious in their habits. In cutting trees, they go in pairs, and very few of them are willing to live in separate huts, or away from the camp. They sleep along the sloping side of the house, with their feet inward, toward the central fire, which is kept burning all night. They dispense with prayers and preaching, and make little account of Sunday. A few have books, but the taste for reading is not general. Mending clothes and sharpening axes, with such amusements as we have mentioned, fill the spare time. Their occupation is healthy and cheerful. The stock of medicines rarely needs to be replenished, and there is not much for a physician to do in their strong-armed company.

#### THE LUMBER WEALTH OF MICHIGAN.

The statistics of the Lower Peninsula, thus far given, are enough to show what marvelous wealth Michigan has in her forests, and to account for the fact that her supply is now the main reliance of all the Northern States, exceeding all that Maine and Canada have to give. All the markets of the West, and most of the markets of the East, now get their lumber from Michigan. Lumber vessels ply from the Saginaw river to all ports on the Lakes from Chicago to Buffalo, and even go through the Welland Canal to the St. Lawrence river. Michigan lumber is carried through the woods of Canada to its market. It is sent across the plains to St. Louis and Cincinnati, and down the Mississippi. It is sent across the mountains to Philadelphia and Baltimore. It is sold on the seaboard and in the interior—transported by canal and by railway. Probably more than half the houses built in the Northern States in the last year, used the growth of Michigan forests in their construction. Of the 400,000,000 feet of lumber received at Albany by the canal, a very large part came from Michigan. The tonnage of vessels engaged in this traffic is larger than the tonnage of many of the commercial cities. Probably as many vessels pass up and down the St. Clair river daily, in the height of the lumber season, as pass by Boston Light. In the Saginaw river itself, in the last year, twenty-one vessels were built, two of which were barks, and four propellers. Of course the chief markets are the six leading Lake cities—Chicago, Milwaukee, Detroit, Toledo, Cleveland and Buffalo. From these points the lumber is distributed to the principal cities of the West and East. Not unfrequently, however, it is sent on an ocean voyage. The Detroit Post gives a list of

twenty-two lumber vessels, which cleared in a single year for foreign ports—Liverpool, London, Glasgow, Cork, Hamburg, Calais and Cadiz. The traffic shows no sign of falling off, and a comparison of years shows it steadily increasing. A ship canal round Niagara Falls would assist the lumber interest hardly less than the grain growing interest of the West.

#### THE RAPID EXHAUSTION OF TIMBER.

It is common to speak of the pine lands of Michigan as "inexhaustible." We hear of the supply that may be expected "for ages to come," from this prolific source. Men think of the lumber forests of the Peninsula as they do of the coal beds of Pennsylvania and Ohio, and laugh at the predictions of alarmists. Yet these predictions are not hasty, but are based on exact calculations. At the present rate of consumption, in a little over seventeen years the pine will be entirely cleared from lower Michigan, and the lumber business will be at an end. If consumption in the next five years should increase in the ratio of the last five years, ten years will exhaust the material. The most sanguine calculation cannot carry the lumber business beyond the present century.

There is no reason to think that the consumption will die off while the facilities for getting lumber are so great, and so many markets are calling for a supply. The waste will go on. The owners of the land will use their opportunity, and let the future take care of itself. They would not be American if they should voluntarily curtail a profitable business in view of spreading it over a longer succession of years. It is more probable that new mills will be built than that those already built will reduce their production or their capacity. It was uttered years ago, and has been repeated with the succeeding seasons, yet thus far with no effect.

#### THE USE OF THE LAND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Fortunately, these new cities are not entirely dependent upon the lumber business. As this industry declines, a more permanent industry takes its place. The pine lands of Michigan are not, like the pine lands of the Southern States, "pine barrens." They are excellent for farming purposes—for fruit, tillage and pasture. The finest wheat grows on tracts from which the timber has been cut. These tracts are inviting to the settler, not only from the cheapness of the land—which is almost given away by the lumber merchant, who has no use for it when the trees are cut off, and is glad to escape his taxes—not only from its cheapness—a dollar an acre, or thereabouts—but because roads are already opened and the market for produce secured. Thirty years hence, if the land be denuded of its forests, it will show a wheat region more marvellous in its breadth, richness and promise for the future, than the

pine region of the present day—a wheat region which may with more reason be called “inexhaustible.” Several counties which were lumber counties a few years ago, have now become noted for agriculture, and export largely the products of the farm and of the field. Genesee county, for instance, of which Flint is the county seat, has a broad expanse of rich grain fields around its central group of sawmills, and the time is not far distant when the dull rumble of the millstones will drown the shrill scream of the saws.

The pioneer is insensible to arguments touching the future supply of timber; to him the forest is only fit to be exterminated, as it hinders his plow and obstructs his sunlight. When northern Michigan becomes, like southern Illinois, a great rolling prairie of grass and grain, whose horizon is as unbroken as the horizon of the ocean, the want of foresight that permitted the destruction of these magnificent forests will be bitterly lamented.

#### INVESTMENT OF MONEY.

Yet not all the pine lands of Michigan are susceptible of cultivation. There are swampy tracts which will require deep and extensive drainage before being available for agriculture. There are sandy tracts which must be greatly enriched before they can be made productive. Bad river, one of the best lumber tributaries of the Saginaw, will always vexatiously annoy the owners of the low lands which it washes. Perhaps the proportion of good farming land in the pine region is not greater than in the southern section of the State. But when the railways are built, and the interior counties are brought into closer intercourse with the marts of trade, as they will be in twenty or thirty years, the man who to-day invests his \$500 in the purchase of five hundred acres of this “exhausted” pine land, will find himself with a handsome fortune. Much of the wealth of Detroit has come from the lumber business; but the surest fortunes have been and will be gained from the culture of the soil. It is a consolation for those who see with sadness the felling of the forests, that the farmers follow the wood-choppers so closely, and create where the pioneers destroy.

Mr. Brigham's remarks in regard to the use of pine lands for agricultural purposes, apply particularly to this locality. It has been a generally received notion that when a person bargains for a tract of pine land, it must be specially designated as such, the idea of farming land never once entering into the contract. It must contain so many thousand feet of pine to the acre, and must lie contiguous to some stream, in order that its products may readily be “driven” or rafted out. The question as to the depth of soil,

whether it be rolling or flat, never occurs, but is it good pine land? This idea, if strictly indulged in, would prove sadly suicidal to the best interests of some of the finest farming regions in the world. But we are happy to state that such fallacious notions are no longer entertained by an intelligent people. In traversing an abandoned "pine lot," with its deserted, dilapidated cabins, its huge, blackened stumps, whose sprawling, massive roots seem to cover all space, its little humps or knolls of yellow sand, its tangle of blackberry, raspberry or gooseberry bushes, which thrive and bear luxuriantly, together with its general air of desolation and ruin, we are willing to confess does anything but impress favorably the mind of the man who comes from an old settled country, to seek a new home in the lumber regions. If the early pioneer of our country had suffered no more than is simply incident to the toil of stump digging and preparing the soil for crops, he would have been comparatively a happy man; but he had all the hardships and privations of a wild backwoods life to endure, far from all civilization, and out of "humanity's reach." Now, with all the means of intercommunication, railroads, plank roads and good wagon roads, that "gridiron" the country in almost every direction, and which are still being projected, no person need be deterred from locating lands because they may at the time seem so far from market. Notwithstanding those abandoned "pine lands" appear so uninviting, many of them in this vicinity have been cleared up and brought into so perfect a state of culture that old practical farmers from the East have been astonished at the wonderful crops produced by them. It is a well-conceded fact that the strongest soil, and that best adapted to agricultural purposes, will, by a succession of kindred crops, deteriorate after awhile and become almost worthless, if no means are employed to retain that strength, such as a proper system of manuring and cultivation. Although these pine lands make splendid farms, a practical knowledge of farming is as necessary to accomplish such an end, as is a knowledge of mechanism to construct any machinery and bring it to a state of perfection.

## DAIRY FARMING IN THE SAGINAW VALLEY.

The Saginaw Valley affords an opening for the dairy business, scarcely equaled by any region in the United States. The Saginaw river towns afford the best market in the State for dairy products. The constant demands to supply the lumbering regions, the wants of a large population engaged in mechanical, manufacturing and mercantile branches of business, and ultimately the demand for shipment for the Lake Superior region, all tend to keep this market good, and to increase the demand.

With this excellent market, this region also affords the very best quality of grazing lands. Its rich alluvial soil is especially adapted to dairy farming. And yet it seems remarkable that nobody has as yet engaged in it. But with such facilities as inducements, it is highly probable that some enterprising farmers soon will make preparations to engage in this branch, and not only find it profitable to themselves, but greatly increase the productive resources of this favored portion of the State.

## WILD FRUITS AND BERRIES.

Wild or native fruits, such as plums, cherries, grapes, etc., grow in great abundance upon the bottom lands and along the margins of the streams, while all manner of shrub fruits and berries are found in the greatest profusion in the woods, including currants and gooseberries of several varieties, whortleberries, blackberries, red and black raspberries, strawberries and cranberries. The cranberry which grows in some of the marshes, was a few years ago an important article of export here, hundreds of bushels being shipped annually from the port of Saginaw to eastern cities. This trade has about fallen off, owing to the great home consumption, and the destruction of the marshes by fire and other causes. During the fall of 1856, hundreds of acres of cranberry marshes were literally consumed and destroyed by the fires which raged incessantly for weeks in our northern forests. The grapes and wild plums are, many of them, of an excellent quality, and might, by domesticating, be rendered almost equal to the imported fruit.

The soil and climate here are adapted to the rearing of all kinds of fruits, and judging from the thriving manner in which the wild fruits grow, and of the great yield of domestic fruits in some portions of the Saginaw Valley already, we predict that at no distant day this section of country will be noted as a fruit growing one. Any person attending our county agricultural fairs, and viewing the great variety of apples, pears, peaches, plums, grapes, etc., on exhibition, raised in the valley, would not for a moment hesitate in pronouncing this a fruit growing country. Strawberries seem to be peculiarly indigenous to the soil here. When properly cultivated and attended to, the vine of this berry yields in an abundance that is truly astonishing, and amply repays for all the care which its delicate nature requires. We are happy to know that its culture is being largely entered into, and with success, and it will not be long, we surmise, e'er this luscious berry will be an article of export with us.

#### VEGETABLES AND GRAINS.

Although in a previous article we have dwelt upon the farming lands of the valley, we wish to call particular attention to the peculiar adaptation of the soil, especially on the bottom lands, and even upon some of the intervalles farther back, to the production of all kinds of field and garden cereals. Potatoes, turnips, beets, carrots, parsnips, etc., also prove by their excessive yield and superior size, the extreme fecundity of the soil, while every variety of garden vines produce to an astonishing degree. Peas, beans, tomatoes, cabbages and lettuce grow in our gardens and fields to great perfection and flavor. The potato attains to a superior excellence with us, and it is nothing unusual to hear of three hundred bushels and upward being raised from one acre of land.

Wheat, barley, oats, rye, corn and buckwheat yield satisfactorily. While wheat does better, as a general thing, back from the streams and upon heavy soil, all other kinds of grain seem to flourish in almost any locality in the valley. We will venture to say that our corn cannot be excelled anywhere.

As a stock raising country, the Saginaw Valley must, with the facilities it possesses in this direction, excel, if attention is paid to it. Thousands of tons of very good hay are annually cut upon the prairies and wild meadows found in various portions of the valley, and where the foreign and domestic grasses have been introduced, they have succeeded to admiration.

#### MINERALS.

Many indications of the existence of minerals of various kinds have been discovered in the Saginaw Valley from time to time. Along the banks of the Tittabawassee and Flint rivers, specimens of bitumenous coal were found several years ago, and although little effort has been made to explore for it in those vicinities, the probability is that rich beds exist not far below the surface. In the immediate vicinity of the Saginaw river, however, it has been pretty well demonstrated that coal does not exist to any extent, by the sinking of salt wells, and some experimental borings for it. Upon the Shiawassee river, in the vicinity of Corunna, some very prolific beds were worked ten or twelve years ago, and we believe are now being worked. At Six Mile Creek, in the town of New Haven, in Shiawassee county, near the southern boundary line of Saginaw county, an extensive bed of coal has been found, and recent explorations have proven it to be the richest and thickest vein in the State. In sinking a shaft eighteen and a half feet vertically, eleven feet of coal was found in veins of from two to five feet in thickness each. An East Saginaw company has been recently organized, for the purpose of opening and working this bed. A superior article of iron ore is found in connection with this coal, said to be from forty to fifty per cent. in richness. The Jackson, Lansing & Saginaw railway passes in the immediate vicinity of this mine. Excellent specimens of coal have also been found at Hemlock City, a new town recently started by W. F. Glasby, Esq., in Saginaw county, about fourteen miles from Saginaw City, on the line of the Saginaw & Gratiot plank road. Coal has likewise been found in Tuscola county, in veins from two to five feet in thickness.

A few years ago, several specimens of native copper ore were found near the headwaters of the Tittabawassee river, which led many to suppose that this ore might be found there plentifully by exploration, but we believe no attempt was ever made in that direction. A piece of pure native copper was found in East Saginaw a few years since, while sinking a salt well, at least fifty feet below the surface. We would not, however, recommend copper explorations here at present, if it lies so far below.

#### PLASTER BEDS AND LIMESTONE.

Plaster is found in great abundance and of the very best quality on the western shore of Saginaw Bay. These beds extend over a surface of about five hundred acres, and are, so far as have been explored, found to be about twelve feet in thickness. It is supposed, however, by parties interested, that they must be not far from twenty feet thick, and inexhaustible. These beds at present are owned and worked by B. F. Smith, who employs seventy men in and about the works. A town has sprung up here, called Alabaster, which contains a hotel, store, mechanic shops, and about thirty dwelling houses, besides a saw mill, grist mill, plaster mill and kalsomining works. A wharf extending several hundred feet into the Bay, with a railroad track running to the plaster beds, enables the proprietor to ship the plaster to any portion of the country. A vessel designed especially for this trade will ply between this point and Wenona, the present terminus of the Jackson, Lansing & Saginaw railroad. It is expected that the annual shipments of plaster will soon reach not less than 30,000 tons. There are several varieties of plaster rock found in these beds, which, besides making plaster, furnish excellent and beautiful building material. Some of it is variegated, and susceptible of a high state of polish. In the vicinity of the Bay, limestone is likewise found in great quantities, in ledges and quarries, of a very superior quality, which is used for building purposes as well as for lime. Large tracts of limestone land lie near Wild Fowl Bay, some of which are owned by Eugene Grant, Esq., who offers liberal inducements to any one who wishes to engage in one of the most lucrative trades—that of



manufacturing lime. The facilities for shipment from any point in this region are good, and this branch of trade must at no distant day be made a profitable one. At present, the building stone, as well as that used for lime, in the valley, are brought from a great distance, and command a very high price. This should not be, when we have plenty of it within our own borders.

#### LUMBER.

We have, contrary to the course heretofore pursued by others, in speaking of the Saginaw Valley, refrained from spreading before the public our lumber and salt at the outset, and thus giving people abroad to understand that we have nothing else to recommend us to favorable consideration but these two commodities. We are often accused of being troubled with "lumber and salt on the brain," but we wish it expressly understood that we possess other qualifications, which, although to a certain extent at present act as a sort of "reserve guard," will ere long come to the rescue, when our boasted lumber shall have disappeared, and our "salt lost its savor." It is true that the lumber business with us may be considered the basis or foundation of every other branch of trade, and has increased to such marvelous proportions that we almost lose sight of the fact that it must one day cease to take the lead not only, but be closed out entirely, throughout the Saginaw Valley. We do not propose to enter into a lengthy article upon the lumber trade, but will present facts and figures in regard to it, some of which we have compiled from authentic sources, and others we have obtained ourselves, from headquarters direct.

The first saw mill in the Saginaw Valley was built at Saginaw City, during the year 1832, by Gardner D. and E. S. Williams. A portion of the machinery used in this mill was taken from the old "Walk in the Water," the first steamer that navigated Lake Erie. This mill was merely built for the purpose of accommodating the early settlers, as such a thing as shipping lumber from the wild region of the Saginaws was not then dreamed of. In connection with this mill, and impelled by the same power, a small run of stone "cracked corn" for our Saginaw forefathers, who lived and

thrived on "hog and hominy"—with all due respect to their blessed memory. The first shipment of lumber from the valley was from the Emerson mill, in the year 1836. This mill, which was located near the east end of Bristol street bridge, East Saginaw, was built the year previous, by a New York company. Its dimensions were 55 by 120 feet, and it contained three upright saws, an edging table and butting saw. Its engine was seventy-five horse power, 4½ feet stroke. There were three boilers, 18 feet long, 42 inches in diameter, and 14 inch flues. Capacity, about 4,000,000 feet of lumber. This mill suspended operations about thirteen years ago, and soon fell into ruins the remains of which were consumed by fire two years since. Portions of the old dock connected with this mill still remain. We said that the first shipment of lumber from the valley was from this mill. Lumber being shipped from here thirty-two years ago, was a far different affair from the shipment of lumber to-day. Imagine, if you please, a small craft manned by three or four men, lying at the mouth of the river, waiting for a north wind to waft it on its devious way up the Saginaw. A breeze springs up, and the little craft walks along through the water like a live thing. Arriving at the "Devil's Elbow," the wind suddenly shifts, or a dead calm settles down upon the face of the waters. The anchor is cast overboard, or a line conveyed to the shore and fastened to a stake driven into the soft ground. A day or two, perhaps a week, passes before a favorable breeze comes, when with spread wings the craft again moves, and after divers adverse winds and perverse calms, she makes port, receives her cargo of lumber, furs and cranberries, and is ready to "clear;" but alas, an eight-day north wind sets in, and she remains "tied up," while the crew go off on a jolly bender.

To-day, a fleet of noble vessels, well manned, enter the Bay, on their way up the river after lumber. They do not have to wait for a favorable wind, for a score or less of tugs are in waiting to escort them to their places of destination. In a short time each noisy little tug is under way with its majestic charge. Approaching a drawbridge, three whistles are sounded as a signal, the draw slowly opens, tug and vessel pass through and are soon at their

destined dock. In two or three days, with a full cargo, the noble vessel is being hurriedly "steamed" out of the river, and in a few days more she is reported at Buffalo, or Chicago, or some other distant port, "all right."

During the year 1857, there were in the entire Saginaw Valley, including old-fashion water mills and steam mills that had to purchase fuel, forty-four lumber manufactories. The old gang mill at Saginaw City, with a capacity for sawing 7,000,000 feet, was considered, as it really was at that time, a marvelous affair. When compared with Sage & McGraw's mill at Wenona, whose capacity is 40,000,000, it really appears to us like a "one-horse concern," from our present stand-point. These forty-four mills manufactured during that season, 114,500,000 feet, employing in and about them 900 men. In 1867, there were eighty-two steam saw mills, many of them with capacities for manufacturing from 10,000,000 to 20,000,000. The amount of lumber sawed that year was 424,000,000 feet, and the number of men employed was 2,408. In addition to the above number of mills, about ten new ones have been since erected, and are now running.

MILLS AND LOCATION.		Mill	Chc	Gang	Capacity.	Lumber Manufac'd in 1887. Feet.
O. A. Ballou & Co.,	Kawkawlin,	1	1	2	20,000,000	10,000,000
Moore, Smith & Co.,	Bangor,	1	1	1	13,000,000	6,400,000
William Crossthwaite,	do	1	1		2,000,000	400,000
Taylor & Moulthrop,	do	1	1		9,000,000	6,500,000
Keystone Salt and Lumber M'fg Co.,	do	1	2		16,500,000	8,169,617
Drake's Mill,	do	1	1		9,000,000	3,500,000
Sage, McGraw & Co.,	Wenona,	1	1	1	40,000,000	22,952,651
Huron Salt and Lumber M'fg Co.,	Salzburg,	1	1		9,000,000	7,540,000
John Arnold & Co.,	do	1	1		9,000,000	4,000,000
G. W. Hotchkiss,	Williams,	1	1		5,000,000	1,850,000
A. Packard,	do	1	1		2,000,000	650,000
Gates & Fay,	Bay City,	1	1		9,000,000	5,300,000
H. M. Bradley & Co.,	do	1	1		9,000,000	5,815,000
William Peters,	do	2	2	1	8,500,000	7,000,000
N. B. Bradley & Co.,	do	1	2		18,000,000	8,000,000
Watson & O'Brien,	do	1	2		7,200,000	5,000,000
Eddy, Avery & Co.,	do	1	2		16,000,000	7,800,000
James McCormick,	do	1	1		9,000,000	4,561,000
Jennison & Rouse,	do	1	2		16,000,000	4,200,000
James Shearer & Co.,	do	1	1	1	13,000,000	8,006,739
Samuel Pitts & Co.,	do	1	2		10,500,000	8,200,000
J. McEwan,	do	1	1	1	13,000,000	8,500,000
Dolsen & Walker,	do	1	1		5,000,000	3,513,000
Folsom & Arnold,	do	1	1		9,000,000	4,700,000
A. Rust & Co.,	do	1	1	1	8,000,000	6,070,577
Smith & Hart,	do	1	1		9,000,000	4,500,000
C. S. Marton & Co.,	Portsmouth,	1	1		5,000,000	2,030,000
A. Stevens & Co.,	do	1	1		3,500,000	1,500,000
Watrous & Southworth,	do	1	1		8,500,000	1,800,000
A. & A. Miller,	do	1	1	1	13,000,000	8,500,000
Hitchcock,	do	2	2		4,000,000	3,000,000
Lewis & Peters,	do	1	1		9,000,000	5,500,000
A. C. Rorrison,	do	1	1		4,500,000	1,200,000
J. F. Wellington & Bro.,	Pine Island,	1	1		5,000,000	2,372,172
W. R. Burt & Co.,	Willow Island,	1	1	1	13,000,000	5,200,000
Oneida Salt and Lumber Co.,	Crow Reserve,	1	1	2	19,500,000	9,500,000
Rust, Eaton & Co.,	Zitwauckie,	2	1	2	21,000,000	12,500,000
J. H. Jerome,	do	1	1		13,000,000	2,000,000
S. H. Webster,	Carrollton,	1	1	1	15,900,000	9,700,000
Elisha O. Litchfield,	do	1	2		14,000,000	5,476,000
T. Jerome & Co.,	do	1	1		9,000,000	4,500,000
E. F. Gould,	do	1	1	1	13,000,000	5,000,000
Haskin, Martin & Wheeler,	do	1	1	1	14,000,000	7,838,305
Shaw & Williams,	Florence,	1	2		13,000,000	7,900,000
Merrill & Co.,	do	1	1	1	11,000,000	5,364,111
Haskin, Martin & Wheeler,	do	2	1		9,000,000	3,200,000
F. Babcock,	do	1	1			300,000
Grant & Saylor,	do	1	1	1	8,000,000	3,500,000
J. L. Wickes & Bros.,	East Saginaw,	1	1	1	10,000,000	6,625,709
S. & C. McLean,	do	1	1	1	13,000,000	5,500,000
M. E. Garrison,	do	1	1	1	13,000,000	7,000,000
Jewett & Gordon,	do	1	1		9,000,000	3,500,000
W. L. P. Little & Co.,	do	1	1	1	9,000,000	3,800,000
Charles Lee,	do	1	1	1	13,000,000	3,600,000
Warner & Eastman,	do	2	1		5,000,000	2,500,000
G. C. Warner & Co.,	do	1	1	1	11,000,000	6,300,000
Sears & Holland,	do	2	2	2	13,000,000	10,500,000
Chapin, Barber & Co.,	do	1	2		11,000,000	7,000,000
A. W. Wright & Co.,	Saginaw City,	1	2	2	28,000,000	17,000,000
G. F. Williams & Bros.,	do	1	2		15,000,000	6,500,000
Thompson Bros.,	do	1	1	1	18,000,000	9,177,000
Barnard & Binder,	do	1	1	1	18,000,000	10,000,000
Green & Harding,	do	1	1		6,000,000	5,100,000
Heather & Allison,	do	1	1	1	13,000,000	5,000,000
Forest Valley Salt & Lumber Company,	do	2	2		11,000,000	4,050,000
E. Briggs,	do	1	1	1	11,000,000	4,420,000
Curtis & Corning,	South Saginaw,	1	1		8,500,000	3,800,000
Rust & Ingledew,	do	1	1	1	8,000,000	7,000,000
Ann Arbor Salt & Lumber M'fg Co.,	do	1	1		6,500,000	3,000,000
Bundy & Lowman,	do	1	1		9,000,000	4,300,000
Steven, Cromwell & Co.,	do	1	1		5,000,000	3,311,000
C. S. Kimberly,	St. Charles,	1	1		7,000,000	2,800,000
Freeman & Adams,	do	1	1		7,500,000	1,200,000
C. A. Lull,	Bridgeport,	1	1		2,000,000	700,000
New England Salt & Lumber Co.,	Buena Vista,	1	1		2,000,000	800,000
Allen & Sutherland,	Tittabawassee,	1	1		2,000,000	100,000
John Larkin,	Midland,	1	2		5,000,000	4,500,000
Albany Salt & Lumber Company,	Cass River,	1	1		2,000,000	500,000
Tributary to the Valley,	(County Mills),	5	3		17,000,000	4,300,000

Upon the Bay Shore, at Alpena, Trowbridge Point, Corlies, Au Sauble, Tawas, Harrisville and Devil River, there are about twenty mills, which manufacture not far from 85,000,000 feet of lumber per annum, and employ about 800 men.

#### SHINGLE TRADE.

The manufacture of shingles is being engaged in extensively here. This trade, upon a small scale, was identified with the lumber business not less than 20 years ago, although it was long after that before machinery was made use of in connection with them. Millions were then made by hand, giving employment to hundreds, and affording ample support to those who had settled upon new farms in the lumber regions. Statistics show the number of shingles made in the entire valley ten years ago, to have been 10,000,000. Now, about 90,000,000 are manufactured, which shows considerable increase in the trade since that time. The following table is from Lewis & Headley's annual business statement:

NAME OF FIRM.	Shingles Manufactured in 1887.	Shipped and Sold.
O. A. Ballou & Co.-----Kawkawlin	1,000,000	800,000
Miller & Henderson-----Bangor	2,000,000	2,000,000
M. A. & A. H. Root-----Salzburg	3,000,000	2,683,750
Jacob Ladrach-----"	3,000,000	800,000
Watrous Bros.-----Portsmouth	4,000,000	4,000,000
A. S. Stevens & Co.-----"	8,000,000	8,000,000
Walker, Wheeler & Padley-----Bay City	2,500,000	2,000,000
Robert Abbs-----Carrollton	4,000,000	400,000
F. D. Babcock-----Florence	8,100,000	7,700,000
G. P. Hosmer-----"	5,100,000	5,100,000
C. & E. Ten Eyck-----East Saginaw	7,750,000	7,550,000
Burnham, Lawton & Co.-----"	2,700,000	2,326,000
J. M. Willey & Co.-----Saginaw City	5,800,000	5,200,000
E. P. & S. J. Hitchcock-----"	3,000,000	3,000,000
S. Bachtell-----"	2,006,000	1,900,000
Wallace & Jose-----"	4,500,000	4,500,000
Heather & Allison-----"	1,200,000	854,525
Barnard & Binder-----"	25,000	25,000
C. S. Kimberly-----St. Charles		400,000
R. R. & W. C. Thompson-----"	3,000,000	2,000,000
Allen & Sutherland-----Tittabawassee	500,000	420,000
D. A. Pettibone-----Bridgeport	5,800,000	5,200,000
T. Brucker & Co.-----"	3,802,000	3,467,000
Morey Bros.-----"	2,000,000	1,750,000
C. Massner-----"	4,800,000	4,600,000
Theodore Howard-----Midland	600,000	600,000
Other small mills-----"	4,800,000	3,600,000
Total shingles manufactured-----		89,383,000
" " shipped, etc-----		84,476,275
" " on hand-----		6,561,250

## STAVE TRADE.

This trade has for some time occupied a conspicuous place in the business of the Saginaw Valley. The almost inexhaustible supplies of superior oak which is found here, together with the facilities for shipping, render the various points upon the Saginaw admirable ones for this branch of industry. The getting out of hogshead, pipe and butt staves, furnishes employment for a vast number of men, and during the winter season, when the mills and salt works have temporarily suspended operations upon the river,

the making, hauling, culling and piling of them occupies quite a pre-eminency in the business of the river towns. The first stave yard in the valley was established in 1850, by Humphrey Shaw. For a long time but little was done at the business, owing to the limited means of shipping in those days. The staves manufactured here find their way not only to various markets in the United States, but also to England, Germany, Spain and France. Since the discovery of salt here, the manufacture of barrel staves has become an important branch of trade. The hoghead, pipe, butt and barrel staves made in the valley, and delivered at different points along the railroads and river in 1867, numbers about 5,275,-000, a good share of which were shipped.

The number of barrel stave manufactories, together with amount made and on hand, is shown by the annexed table from the annual business statement of Lewis & Headley, for 1867:

NAME OF FIRM.	Staves Manufactur'd in 1867.	Shipped, Sold and Made up.
A. B. Bradley & Co.....Bay City	334,000	239,000
Samuel Pitts & Co....."	225,000	160,000
Dolsen & Walker....."	436,425	386,425
C. S. Marton.....Portsmouth	150,000	150,000
Taylor & Moulthrop.....Bangor	200,000	200,000
Keystone Salt & Lumber Co....."	80,000	
Jacob Ladrach.....Salzburg	200,000	100,000
Huron salt and lumber Co....."	203,000	100,000
Oneida Salt & Lumber Co...Crow Island	420,000	395,000
Robert Abbs.....Carrollton	600,000	600,000
Haskin, Martin & Wheeler....."	75,000	40,000
E. F. Gould....."	200,000	125,000
Haskin, Martin & Wheeler.....Florence	575,000	575,000
C. & E. Ten Eyck.....East Saginaw	2,300,000	2,300,000
Sears & Holland....."	600,000	600,000
Green & Harding.....Saginaw City	350,000	275,000
Barnard & Binder....."	600,000	600,000
Heather & Allison....."	368,300	76,734
Forest V'y Salt & Lumber Co....."	350,000	270,000
Ann Arbor Salt & Lumber Co. S. Saginaw	250,000	250,000
New England Salt Co.....Buena Vista	600,000	597,500
Albany City salt mf'g Co.....Cass River	200,000	170,000

Most if not all of the above factories are run in connection with mills and salt works, the same power being used.

Mr. D. B. Ketchum of Saginaw City, has engaged in the manufacture of shooks, with the highest degree of success. These shooks are staves already prepared for making into casks, hogsheads, etc., neatly done up in packages, each package containing about thirty, or just enough to make one cask. They are made exclusively for the West India trade. About 110,000 packages are shipped annually from this enterprising institution. Twenty-five men find constant employment in and about the works.

#### SHIP-BUILDING AND SHIPPING.

The first vessel built on the Saginaw river was the JULIA SMITH, a small schooner, launched during the year 1837, and owned by Nelson Smith, Esq., a resident of Saginaw City. In 1848 the first steamboat was built, and launched into the bayou on the east side of the river, near where Bristol street now commences. This was a stern wheel institution, and was used both as a tug and packet. Its name was BUENA VISTA, and it was built by a joint stock company. Addison Mowrey commanded it. The Buena Vista was a queer looking affair, but it did a goodly amount of business for those days, and was looked upon by the early residents of the valley as a marvel of speed, although it must be confessed it was somewhat asthmatic and noisy. Two or three years subsequent, the next steamboat was built, at Zilwaukee, by Daniel Johnson, Esq., and named the SNOW. About this time a scow or barge called the ETHAN ALLEN, was launched near the old Emerson mill, by Curtis Emerson, who celebrated the occasion with a fine banquet, given at the Webster House, Saginaw City.

We have spoken in another place, under the head of timber, of the superior excellence of our oak for ship-building. We will simply repeat that in point of flexibility, elasticity, toughness and durability, it has been pronounced equal to the old English oak, and superior to most of the ship timber found elsewhere in the United



States. During the year 1867, the following crafts were built on the Saginaw river, at the different ship-yards:

Name	Owners	Tonnage
Bark J. C. King.....	Gillet & King	512
" W. H. Vanderbilt.....	G. S. Weaver	615
Barge Wolverine.....	Arnold & Co.	141
" A. F. R. Braley.....	Fields	391
" G. W. Wesley.....	Sonsmith & Co.	244
Prop. J. M. K. Hilton.....	Hill & Waterman	166
Barge T. P. Sheldon.....	Sawyer & Cholet	186
" J. A. Holland.....	Walsh & Barber	157
Prop. J. Stewart.....	Stewart & Goddard	51
Tug Anna Molles.....	Molles Bros.	72
Tug Ballentine.....	Ballentine, Crawford & Co.	73
Steamer Johnny.....	Ballou	52
Barge Samuel Bolton.....	Ballentine & Co.	330
" J. L. Ketchum.....	Ballentine & Co.	425
" Charlie.....	Crossthwaite & Co.	109
" Joseph.....	Trombley & Co.	293
Scow Pioneer.....	Allen	17
Scow Dolphin.....	Coupon & Co.	43

From the year 1855 to 1857 inclusive, the number of crafts which entered the Saginaw river were as follows:—Barks, 66; brigs, 290; schooners, 982; steamboats, 273. Previous to that time, the whole number of arrivals of all kinds could not have exceeded twenty annually. The whole number of crafts reported now as passing Genessee street bridge in the city of East Saginaw alone during one month, is over one thousand. This by no means includes all that come into the river, as hundreds stop at Bay City and points below. Besides the general shipping of the river, we have several regular lines of steamboats to Detroit, Cleveland Toledo, Goderich, and to every point on the Bay and Lake shores, which carry both freight and passengers.

The following will show what the entire shipments were by water, from the Saginaw Valley, during the year 1867, of its products:

Lumber, feet.....	358,001,930
Lath, pieces.....	44,175,591
Shingles.....	44,350,000
Salt, barrels.....	403,393
Oak timber, feet.....	708,720
Oak timber, pcs.....	7,340
Walnut lumber, feet.....	12,000
Staves.....	5,206,472
Shooks, bundles.....	10,468
Hoops.....	1,330,000
Pickets.....	595,205
Pail bolts, cords.....	50

## SALT.

Our former State Geologist, the lamented Dr. Douglas Houghton, asserted that a goodly portion of the Saginaw Valley rested on a bed of salt, and that by sinking shafts anywhere along the river and its tributaries, strong brine in any quantities would be the result. This assertion, be it remembered, was made at least twenty-five years ago, and had the good Doctor been permitted to live, he would have witnessed the verification of that assertion. Although "salt licks," or springs, were found at that early day, plentifully, all through the valley, the Doctor remarked in his Report, that "the appearance of a salt spring at the surface is of itself far from being evidence of the existence of water below. It is only a single link in the chain of facts."

In pursuance to an act of Congress in 1837, in regard to the selection of salt lands in Michigan, our Legislature, immediately after, and in the same year, passed an act authorizing the Governor to make the selection. A portion of these lands were selected on the banks and near the mouth of Salt river, a small tributary of the Tittabawassee, about ten miles above the forks of the same, or where Midland City now stands. In 1838, Dr. Houghton was authorized to commence boring for salt at one of the salt springs. He selected the above spot, and went to work the same year, the Legislature appropriating \$3,000 to defray expenses. After working nine months, the shaft had only reached 140 feet, when, getting out of funds, and the Legislature failing to make any farther ap-

appropriation, the work was abandoned, and everything connected with it went into ruins. The most sanguine belief, however, was entertained in regard to the existence of salt beds in this vicinity, and when, in 1859, a bill was introduced into the Legislature to appropriate \$10,000 towards developing the salt in the Grand river valley, our people felt that such an appropriation for that locality was unjust, as the chances here for salt were equal, if not greater than they were there. During the pendency of this bill, public meetings were held in the Saginaw Valley, to discuss the matter, and it was deemed advisable to apply to the Legislature for some encouragement towards developing our saline resources, which we felt confident we possessed. To this end a petition was drafted, and also a bill to afford such protection and aid as might be required, on the principle of granting a bounty on salt in order to encourage its manufacture. The result was, the \$10,000 appropriation for Grand Rapids, or the bill, rather, was laid aside, and this bill was passed and approved, Feb. 15, 1859. All property used in connection with the manufacture of salt, was exempt from taxation by the provisions of this bill, which also provided a bounty of ten cents a bushel on all salt made. With such encouragement, a company was at once formed in East Saginaw, during the year 1859, and a shaft sunk to the depth of 632 feet, when brine was found in great abundance and strength. Two blocks being built, salt boiling commenced in June, 1860, and the first salt was packed in July following. The first year, the company, with two wells, manufactured nearly 11,000 barrels, and the second year, over 32,000. All manner of methods are adopted in the manufacture of salt, viz., by kettles, solar and steam evaporation, pans, and Chapins Patent, which last originated in this valley. There is but little difference in the quality thus manufactured, although each one very naturally claims a superiority over that made by his neighbor who differs from his plan. This pleasant rivalry leads to the very best results. We append the following table, showing the progress in the business from the first. This year (1868) the amount of salt made will probably be the same that it was last season:

SALT WORKS AND LOCATION.		Salt Manufactured in 1867.	No. of Blocks.	Pans No.	Men Employed	Capital Invest'd
O. A. Ballou	Kawkawlin,	9,786	2	2	8	15,000
Taylor & Moulthrop,	Bangor,	5,100	1			19,000
Leng, Bradfield & Co.,	do	10,400	2	3	8	17,000
Keystone Salt and Lumber M'fg Co.,	do	9,006	1		10	40,000
Moore, Smith & Co.,	do		1	1		12,000
G. H. Van Etten,	Salzburg,		2			32,000
H. P. Parmlee,	do		2			35,000
Fisk & Clark,	do		2			20,000
W. S. Tallman,	do		1			13,000
F. Fitzhugh,	do	1,400	2		7	20,000
Huron Salt and Lumber M'fg Co.,	do	7,500	1		10	10,000
N. B. Bradley & Co.	Bay City,	9,520	1		16	25,000
Samuel Pitts & Co.,	do	8,150	1		9	30,000
Titus Duncan,	do	6,155	2	1	10	18,000
Smith & Hart,	do	7,000	1	1	10	20,000
Bay City Salt M'fg Company,	do	5,369	3	2		30,000
Dolsen & Walker,	do	5,500	1		16	14,000
Hill & Van Etten,	do		2			40,000
Lower Saginaw Company,	do	8,500	1		6	45,000
Atlantic Salt Company,	do	10,200	2	3	15	50,000
E. G. Merriek,	do		2			40,000
A. Stevens & Co.,	Portsmouth,	6,634	1		10	20,000
Haydon Salt Company,	do		1			20,000
A. L. Braddick,	do	7,000	2		6	32,000
Portsmouth Salt Company,	do		2			25,000
N. Y. & Sag. S. Salt Co.	Zilwaukee,		1			150,000
George DeForest Lord,	do	11,224			15	100,000
Western Salt Company,	do	35,000	4	2	40	82,000
Oneida Salt and Lumber Co.,	Crow Reserve,	10,900	2		11	35,000
Orange County Salt Company,	Carrollton,	14,000	2		20	75,000
Saginaw Valley " "	do	16,000	3		14	74,000
Chicago " "	do	22,500	3		30	30,000
Empire " "	do	10,000	2		14	50,000
Elisha C. Litchfield,	do	14,000	4		18	30,000
Haskin, Martin & Wheeler,	do		1			10,000
Haskin, Martin & Wheeler,	Florence,	47,467	6		50	60,000
East Saginaw Salt Man'g Co.	East Saginaw,	21,500	6		75	140,000
Buffalo Salt Company,	do	15,000	2		15	35,000
E. Briggs,	do	11,049	2		10	18,000
Chapin, Barber & Co.,	do	1,250	1	1	3	7,000
Burnham, Lawton & Co.,	do	2,863	1		6	25,000
D. G. Whitney,	Saginaw City,	8,500	3	1	13	25,000
Mack, Schmid & Kull,	do	11,550	1		8	10,000
Barnard & Binder,	do	16,000	2	1	10	25,000
Green & Harding,	do	13,148	2		10	12,000
Heather & Allison,	do	4,500	1		1	10,000
Forest Valley Salt & Lumber Company,	do	9,219	2		9	15,000
N. B. Nye & Co.,	South Saginaw.		2			28,000
Ann Arbor Salt & Lumber Co.	do	9,030	2		11	17,000
Rust & Ingledew,	do	6,000	1		6	10,000
Steven, Cromwell & Co.,	do	7,252	2		16	30,000
Allen & Sutherland,	do	1,660	1		5	8,000
Flagler & York,	do		4			75,000
Medina Salt Company,	do		1			12,000
Salina " "	do	16,300	2		25	30,000
New England Salt Works,	Buena Vista,	3,000	1		6	5,000
Wayne County Salt Man'g Co.,	Tittabawassee,	9,589	1		9	5,000
Albany Salt Company,	Cass River,	9,000	2		15	85,000
Gorden, Penny & Co.,	do		1			30,000
Union Salt Works,	Bridgeport,	500	1	3	6	10,000

## BRICK.

The great demand for brick, and the superior excellence of the material in the Saginaw Valley, has led to their manufacture upon an extensive scale, upon the Tittabawassee and Cass rivers, where the very best clay and sand for this purpose is found in great abundance. It must not be supposed for a moment, that the land in the vicinity of these brick yards is unfit for agricultural purposes. Far from it, for they are all located in the best farming districts in the State. Before these yards can be prepared, the surface, which consists of a rich formation of loam, in many instances not less than fourteen inches in thickness, with its corresponding depth of subsoil, has to be removed before coming to the clay beds, which are almost any thickness imaginable. The upper strata makes brick of a pale red color, while the deeper you dig, the lighter will be the color, resembling, both in color and quality, the celebrated Milwaukee brick. Upon the Tittabawassee there are about twelve extensive yards, some of which employ machinery. Messrs. Tucker & Stever of this city, own one of the best on the river. A well conducted machine will turn out 12,000 brick per day, or even more, according to the number of hours employed. One man can make upwards of 1,000 per day, by hand, of stock brick, which are used for the fronts of buildings and for finishing. The brick yard of Dr. J. S. Curtis, located at Bridgeport Centre, is probably about one of the best, if not the very best conducted yard in the valley. The present manager, Mr. Edington, evidently understands the business. This yard turns out 40,000 brick per day. It has three machines for ordinary brick, besides four stock machines, which are run by hand. The brick manufactured in the valley find a ready market at home, which is pretty good evidence that some building is being done among us.

The first brick yard in the Saginaw country was established in East Saginaw, in 1852, near where Emerson and Franklin streets now intersect, under the auspices of Norman Little. Mr. Albright started one about the same time, on the Tittabawassee, and furnished brick for the Buena Vista block and the Bancroft House, which were the first brick buildings in the valley.

## FISH BUSINESS.

For many years this trade has occupied quite a prominence in the business of the Lakes and Bay that hem in our beautiful Peninsula, and in point of extent and profit, it has been excelled but by few other branches of trade. It would be a difficult thing for us to establish the exact point of time when this trade was first entered into upon our upper Lakes, yet we know that for many years it has been engaged in with great success. Nor is it alone the lakes and bays that have acquired a notoriety for fish, for most of our rivers afford excellent varieties and in great abundance. During the spring and fall months, myriads of fish known as the wall-eyed pike, a species of pickerel, come into our northern streams to deposit their spawn, and hundreds of barrels of them are annually taken by our fishermen during these seasons. Almost every other species of fresh water fish are caught here, by every conceivable means and method. The river fish business has been for a number of years steadily increasing, until it has attained to considerable importance. Hundreds of barrels are caught during the winter season, through the ice. These are packed in ice, in barrels, and sent to eastern markets. The species of fish usually sent off thus are the pike, black bass, perch and pickerel. Harvey Williams, Esq., one of our pioneers, introduced this trade here in 1864, and is still actively engaged in it, and although nearly eighty years old, is still hale and active, and is, to all present appearances, likely to furnish the Saginaw people with many barrels more of the finny race. During the year 1867, the trade amounted to nearly \$15,000. For two or three years past, the average catch each year has been not far from seventy-five tons, and the average price has been \$5 per cwt. It is estimated that the present year about \$25,000 worth will be caught in the rivers and the bay at the mouth of the Saginaw.

The sturgeon is both a lake and a river fish, and when properly served up, forms an excellent dish. During the early ages of the Saginaw Valley, before cattle were raised here, the flesh of this uncouth looking fish was called by our forefathers, "Saginaw beef."

The trout is a lake fish, and never finds its way into our rivers; so also with the white fish, the prince of fresh water fish. Cat fish are sometimes caught here, weighing from ten to twenty pounds, but people, as a general thing, will go a great way after other kinds of fish before using the flesh of this. The perch, a splendid pan fish, is caught by thousands in our rivers, in the spring and fall, with hook and line, in the hands of men, women and children, who enter into this sport with the greatest gusto. Our contiguity to the Bay and Lakes, and our ample means of intercommunication with all the fishing points thereupon, fills our market with fresh trout and white fish, all seasons of the year, at reasonable rates.

#### SAGINAW CITY.

We have deemed it advisable to treat first upon the agricultural and other resources of the valley, together with the various departments of trade, business, etc., before speaking directly of its cities and villages, although we have often had occasion to allude to some of them in an incidental way. With our usual veneration for age, we commence with Saginaw City, that being the starting point of civilization in the valley of the Saginaw.

This city is beautifully located upon the western bank of the Saginaw river, twenty miles from Saginaw Bay, two hundred miles from Detroit via Bay and Lake Huron, and ninety-five miles by railroad. It is the county seat of Saginaw, and according to the census taken the present season by its controller, the population of the city is about 8,000 souls. The court house and building containing the county offices, occupy the public square, located about in the centre of the city. The jail is situated opposite the court house, and its antiquated and forlorn appearance is more a "terror to evil doers," we suspect, than its bolts and bars and "dungeon keep." In all probability a new and more imposing edifice will be built ere long. There are five handsome churches, one first class hotel, a splendid hall, and a large number of fine residences here. The streets are regularly laid out, and many of them are lined with a variety of beautiful shade trees, which, together with its delightful location, render this one of the most charming cities in the

west. The Jackson, Lansing & Saginaw railroad passes through this city, and a street railway brings it into immediate communication with East Saginaw, a sister city on the east side of the river. As previously stated by us, a treaty was concluded here during the year 1819, between our Government and the Chippewas, under the direction of Gen. Lewis Cass, which secured to us a large tract of territory, including the entire valley of the Saginaw. About two years after, a United States cantonment was established here, a stockade was erected, block houses built, and everything marked it as a strict military community, which it in reality was. The fort was built upon a high point overlooking the river, a portion of the ground being now occupied by the Taylor House. The treaty with the Indians was held near the spot upon which the residence of William H. Sweet now stands. Many associations of a highly interesting character are interwoven with the early history of Saginaw. For many years previous to the arrival of the troops, and indeed long after, this point was the great camping ground and general rendezvous of the Saginaw tribes, and was called by them Ke-pay-sho-wink, which means the great camping ground. It was here that the natives all rendezvoused in the spring, after finishing their sugar making and winter hunting. After this became a trading point, it was their custom to come here, settle up with the traders and have a general jubilee, or, more properly speaking, a grand pow-wow, which usually lasted two or three weeks. During this time, old grudges, disputes and other difficulties were liquidated, and new feuds entered into. If an injury had been done one party by another, it was here settled at this time, either with property, such as horses, blankets, etc., or by the price of life. Were the injury of an exceedingly aggravating nature, such as the murder of one of the tribe, and a life was demanded, it was stoically and unflinchingly yielded up by the doomed party.

In the year 1822, the families of Major Baker, who commanded the detachment of troops, Lieuts. Garland and Brooks, together with those of Joseph Campau, Antoine Campau, Archibald Lyons,



Mr. Provensal, Mr. Corben and one other gentleman whose name is now lost, constituted the colony which laid the foundation of Saginaw City. For many years after this little colony located here, the only means of communication with the great world outside were those afforded by the rivers, and an Indian trail which led through the woods to Detroit, upon which the Indians took their annual march to Malden, to receive presents from the British Government. Notwithstanding the great and serious inconveniences that attended a removal hither, emigration began slowly to send out its feelers, so to speak, in this direction, and the little colony in the woods of Saginaw soon began to increase in numbers and to thrive apace. The land in part upon which the city stands was located by Dr. Charles Little, during the year 1822, who entered large tracts upon the river, extending several miles either way. What the Doctor saw at that early day, in the wilds of a northern country, far from all manner of civilization, to induce him to invest money there, is more than we can imagine. He must certainly have possessed a spirit of divination. In 1832, a portion of the spot now occupied as Saginaw City was platted and called Town of Saginaw. At this time the rush for town lots did not seem to be very great, and but few were disposed of. About opposite Green Point, nearly two miles above the city, two years after, some visionary gentleman from the east conceived the idea of starting a town. A plot was made and a large city built—upon paper—called Upper Saginaw. But no “actual settlers” located here, and the proprietor lost all hope of seeing his city peopled with aught save “airy nothings,” so he dropped his original intentions and gracefully retired. Not far from this identical spot, the large and enterprising village of South Saginaw now stands, with its busy population, its noisy hum of manufactories, its long line of docks, and its well regulated municipal arrangements.

The town of Saginaw for a long time remained a small hamlet, its inhabitants being engaged principally in the fur trade. About the year 1832, Gardner D. Williams, E. S. Williams, Harvey Williams, James Busby, Elijah N. Davenport, Hiram L. Miller, Elea-

zer Jewett, Charles D. Little, Abram Butts and James Fraser located here, while Andrew Ure, J. Brown, J. Thompson, McCarty, John McGregor, H. and C. McLane, — Bacon, Stephen Benson and a few others, located farms upon the Tittabawassee river, and removed there with their families. To-day the farms of these pioneers are among the best in the State of Michigan. Murdock Fraser settled upon the bank of the same river in 1835, as a farmer. Two years previously he made an attempt to visit the Saginaw country on horseback, but between Pine Run and the Saginaw river he got lost, and wandered in the woods three days and nights without food, during which time, to add to his troubles, his pony left him, wolves howled around him, and streams obstructed his way. He finally came out at the cabin of one Kent, situated on the bank of the Cass river, where the plank road bridge now is, in rags and nearly famished.

Our Saginaw pioneers, being tired of corn dodgers, began to raise a little wheat as early as 1835, and in order to get it floured, were obliged to go to Flushing, and sometimes as far as Pontiac, Oakland county, with ox teams, a portion of the way cutting their road through the woods. Upon one occasion Murdock Fraser started to mill with thirty bushels of wheat. Arriving at the Thread Mill, one mile the other side of where Flint City now is located, he found the mill out of repair, and proceeded on to Flushing. He was gone from home ten days, and being obliged to defray his expenses along the way out of his wheat, he having no money, he found upon his arrival home, more than half of his grist used up. One Captain S. was fourteen days coming from Pontiac to Saginaw, while Judge E. N. Davenport was seven days on the way from Flint, when he removed here with his family in 1832.

In 1835 the plot of the town was considerably enlarged, and a map drawn up and engraved, representing streets, public square, and all the elements of an emporium. The name of the town was changed to that of Saginaw City. Emigration began gradually to flow in, and thoughts of entering into a permanent organization for the purpose of transacting business in a proper manner, were

indulged in. At that time Saginaw county embraced Bay, Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac counties. A County Board was established in 1835, and held its first meeting on the second Tuesday of October. As a sort of curiosity, and a relic, we publish the entire proceedings of the first meeting of the Board, after its organization. It bears on the face a show of business.

The County Board of the County of Saginaw met, agreeable to law, on the second Tuesday in October, and said Board then adjourned to Friday, Oct. 23, 1835, at the house of E. N. Davenport, in the village of Saginaw and county aforesaid. Were present, G. D. Williams, F. Mosely, J. P., Albert Miller, J. P., E. S. Williams, Town Clerk. On motion, Albert Miller was chosen President of said Board, and E. S. Williams Clerk of said Board. On examination of accounts against said county, the following were allowed, viz.:

1. To G. D. & E. S. Williams.....	\$13 65
2. E. S. Williams.....	20 00
3. E. N. Davenport.....	4 00
4. E. S. Williams.....	1 00
5. William F. Mosely.....	2 00
6. G. D. Williams.....	3 00
7. Albert Miller.....	4 00
8. Thomas Simpson.....	1 50
9. Resolved by the Board that A. Miller, Esq., be allowed for copying assessment roll and proportioning tax to collector.....	5 00
10. Resolved that Wm. F. Mosely be allowed as District Attorney for the year 1835.....	15 00
11. G. D. & E. S. Williams, account for stationery.....	50
12. Resolved that the Clerk of this Board be allowed as compensation for services as Clerk.....	2 00
<hr/>	
Amount of orders to be issued.....	\$71 65
The amount allowed for town expenses town of Saginaw..	93 94
Collectors fees at five per cent.....	4 69
Resolved that \$100 be raised as a town tax for building a bridge in District No. 1, said town.....	100 00
Add five per cent.....	5 00
<hr/>	
Amount of town tax.....	\$203 63

Resolved, That the Treasurer of the county pay on order of the supervisor, fifty dollars, out of any monies in his hands, to be applied in building bridge in District No. 1, town of Saginaw.

Resolved, That the County Clerk procure one quire of county orders printed, to be paid for out of the treasury, on order of the Supervisor.

Resolved, That the Clerk of this Board is authorized to sign and issue county orders in compensation of the within claimants, for accounts allowed by this Board.

Resolved, That the Clerk of this Board procure a suitable book for a record of the proceedings of this Board, and the Treasurer will pay for the same on order of the Supervisor, out of any monies in his hands.

The Board then adjourned.

We hereby certify the above to be the true proceedings of the Board. Under our hands this 23d day of October, 1835.

G. D. WILLIAMS, Supervisor,	} Co. BOARD
ALBERT MILLER, Justice of Peace,	
WM. F. MOSELY, " "	
E. S. WILLIAMS, Town & County Cl'k,	

During the following year, Norman Little settled here with his family. As agent for a New York company, he purchased the military reserve, including the stockade, block houses, etc., for \$55,000. He at once commenced building upon an extensive scale for those days. Among the buildings thus erected were the Webster House, two large warehouses and docks, and quite a number of family residences. At this time the population had increased to about 900 souls. All was life and activity here, and the sound of the axe, the hammer and the saw, was heard ringing merrily over the waters of the Saginaw, or echoing in the green forests around. One or two steamers plied regularly between this place and Detroit, and everything gave promise of great results. A press was brought on from New York, by Norman Little, and a newspaper started here, called the Saginaw Journal. Its nominal editor was John P. Hosmer, although it is said that H. L. Miller really conducted it. The citizens also organized a library association and established a splendid town library, consisting of nearly one thousand volumes of choice books. Saginaw was in reality, at this time, a little world by itself, hemmed in by the bright river and beautiful green woods, and cut off as it were from all direct communication with the great, busy world outside, for which it seemed to care but little. In a small pamphlet like this, it would be im-

possible to trace minutely the history of the progress of this town, to note all the doings of a public nature, or to give it that attention which in a larger volume it would most certainly receive.

The terrible financial crisis and crash that followed the year 1836, and which produced such a fearful reaction throughout the length and breadth of the land, frustrated to a great extent the plans of the company here, and left everything connected with the business in *STATU QUO*. As much of the population was a sort of floating one, it was not long after operations ceased here, before it became reduced more than one-half, and instead of the bustle and confusion that had prevailed, a Sabbath-like quiet now reigned. The steamers forsook the river, and the canoe again resumed its original occupancy.

From 1839 to 1845, little or no emigration came into the country. During the year 1841, the territorial road, or as it was more generally known, the Saginaw turnpike, was completed. This road had been chopped out and worked within eighteen miles of Saginaw several years before, when the work was abandoned. After its completion it was far from being a good road, and at some seasons of the year was almost impassible. In 1842, Gardner Williams received permission of the county board to establish a ferry over the Saginaw river, at the foot of Mackinaw street, the right of ferriage to extend one mile from this point, each way, up and down the river. The rates of ferriage were one shilling for foot passengers, two shillings for a one-horse team, and four shillings for a double team. This ferry continued in operation until 1864, when a bridge across the river at this point superceded it. The mail was carried from Flint to Saginaw on horseback, as late as 1849, and I think even later. About the year 1850, the tide of emigration began to turn northward, as this portion of the State was then considered, and prospects assumed a more favorable complexion. The "city" began to flourish, and business, which had so long lain dormant, awoke, and renewed its age and increased. Steamboats and vessels made their appearance here, saw mills increased, the forests around the town began to melt away, and ev-

everything began to assume an appearance akin to a bona fide city. The fine farming lands in the vicinity, and upon the various streams, began to be settled upon, and it became evident that the world was at last awakening to a realizing sense of the growing importance of the Saginaw Valley. The finding of salt here, in 1860, gave an impetus to the business of the valley, and opened up a new field for operations. The building of the Jackson, Lansing & Saginaw railroad through this city, added to the already awakened spirit of trade, and to-day, Saginaw, which but a few years ago found its uncertain way through the woods by means of an Indian trail, hears the welcome sound of the ponderous locomotive, as it thunders through its streets at least six times a day, with its long train of magnificent cars, which, together with the Flint & Pere Marquette railroad and river, places it at once in direct communication with all mankind.

This city was incorporated in 1857, and the following city officers elected, viz.:—Gardner D. Williams, mayor; Coe Garrett, recorder; E. H. Shiminond, treasurer; John Moore, G. W. Bullock, Jay Smith and David Hughes, aldermen; John E. Gibson, marshal; E. C. Newell, city attorney; A. S. Gaylord, supervisor. The city is divided into four wards, each ward being entitled to two aldermen in the council. The present mayor is Alfred F. R. Braley, and the other city officers are as follows:—J. B. Scheick, recorder; Emil Schuermann, treasurer; J. T. Burnham, C. T. Brenner, N. D. Lee, G. R. Stark, S. B. Williams, M. T. C. Plessner, A. A. Brockway and J. S. North, aldermen; Edwin Saunders, controller.

#### CIRCUIT COURT.

J. G. Sutherland..... Judge

#### COUNTY OFFICERS.

W. A. Lewis.....	C. C. Commissioner
E. H. Powers.....	Prosecuting Attorney
E. Bloeden.....	County Clerk
H. B. Ferris.....	Deputy Clerk
Henry Miller.....	Sheriff
A. L. Rankin.....	Deputy Sheriff

D. A. Pettibone.....	Surveyor
Otto Roeser.....	Probate Judge
A. L. Bingham.....	Register of Deeds
G. A. Lyon.....	Treasurer
L. W. Bliss, N. Osborn.....	Coroners
B. J. Brown .....	Registrar in Bankruptcy

A FIRE DEPARTMENT, with a steamer, hook and ladder company, etc., was organized some time ago.

#### CHURCHES.

PRESBYTERIAN (First) corner of Court and Harrison streets.

METHODIST, corner of Washington and Adams streets.

BAPTIST, (First,) corner of Franklin and Fayette streets.

EPISCOPAL, (St. Johns,) corner of Washington and Franklin streets.

LUTHERAN, (German Evangelical,) Court street.

LUTHERAN, corner Harrison and James streets.

CATHOLIC, (St. Andrews,) corner Washington and Monroe streets.

These denominations have all fine church edifices.

#### SCHOOLS.

The city has a splendid system of schools, and fine buildings for educational purposes. Besides the several ward school houses, which are elegant structures, the main building, recently finished, is perhaps, in point of architectural beauty and convenience, the finest edifice in the west.

#### MASONIC LODGES.

Saginaw Lodge, No. 154, meets once a month in Masonic Hall, Fisher's block, Water street. Organized Feb. 19, 1864.

Germania Lodge, No. 79, organized March, 1854. Meets every month, at Masonic Hall.

#### ODD FELLOWS LODGES.

Saginaw Lodge, No. 42, meets every Monday evening, at Odd Fellows' Hall, corner Hamilton and Madison streets.

Washington Encampment, No. 19, organized May, 1866. Meets in Odd Fellows' Hall the first and third of each month.

#### GOOD TEMPLARS.

Saginaw Lodge, organized February 13, 1864. Meetings held in Good Templars' Hall every Tuesday evening.

## YOUNG MEN'S SOCIETY.

Organized January, 1868, and hold meetings every week, at their rooms in Ritter's block, corner Franklin and Water streets.

## SAGINAW CITY MUSICAL ASSOCIATION.

Organized in 1866, and meets every Monday evening, in the parlor of the Presbyterian church.

## TEUTONIA SOCIETY.

Incorporated in the year 1863.

## GYMNASTIC ASSOCIATION.

Meets at Percott's Hall, corner of Water and Franklin streets.

## GERMAN ENGLISH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

Meets at Prescott Hall.

THE SAGINAW REPUBLICAN, a weekly newspaper, edited by C. V. DeLand.

A GAS COMPANY has recently been organized here, which proposes to furnish the city with gas, soon.

Saginaw City Street Railway extends from the foot of Mackinaw street bridge to the foot of Genessee street, East Saginaw.

## AU SAUBLE.

Since the government improvements at the mouth of the Sauble river have commenced, public attention has been strongly turned to that locality, and its advantages, particularly for lumbering and the shipment of the lumber product, are so apparent that many shrewd capitalists have been induced, during the present summer, to make investments in the vicinity, and more are daily following in their track.

Sauble river is comparatively straight, always rapid, and being supplied by springs at its headwaters, is always full, hence long timber can be easily run, lumbering, if it is desirable, can be done at any season, and the delays and uncertainties of scant water, break ups, and grounding logs from too much freshet, are unknown to log drivers on the Sauble, and lumbering can be commenced a month earlier and continued a month later than at most other points.

The situation of Au Sauble, in a commercial point of view, being only fifteen miles off the regular track of Chicago bound vessels, is favorable for low freights, and lumber there is on an average worth, for like qualities, \$1,50 more per thousand than it is at any point on Saginaw river.



From no point on the lakes has the rafting of logs and long timber been so successfully carried on as from the Sauble. The tug G. H. Parker, Capt. Littleton, has contracted to take twenty-five rafts of timber, the present season, from Saginaw to Toledo, and she is well on with the contract, without having lost a stick as yet. One of the reasons for this is the favorable situation of Sauble in relation to Point au Barques, the prime point of danger in all Lake Huron towing. A short run from the Sauble, which can be made at almost any season by taking advantage of the weather, puts a raft beyond the range of reefs on the point, and either in shape to go with the wind, or to reach smooth water by making a lea under some of the points on the coast. At all events the rafting of logs and timber from the Sauble is reduced to a matter of business, as it is not elsewhere, the risks are known, and the result is that logs there bring, as does lumber, \$1,50 per thousand feet more than at other points.

Twenty thousand dollars was added last winter to the government appropriation for the mouth of Sauble river, which will be ample to make an excellent harbor, and give at all times a depth of at least ten feet of water over the bar. Inside there is always depth and "room and verge enough" to float at any time half the vessels in the lakes. With 3,000,000,000 feet of pine timber in the rear, the most extensive fisheries on the lakes, cedar, hard timber and farming lands, and these commercial facilities, if Sauble does not make her mark, then are we no prophet.

#### DETROIT LUMBER MARKET.

The remarkable steadiness in the market rates for lumber thus far during the season, is probably without precedent in the history of the trade, there having been no important fluctuations whatever since the opening of the season. In view of the large stocks prepared for market, the above fact alone affords a striking commentary upon the healthfulness of the trade. If it were not in a strictly healthy condition, the large stocks got out, coupled with the somewhat depressed condition of trade generally, would have been followed by a break down in prices. The result should be quite gratifying to all whose fortunes are identified with the lumber interest, after such a season, with all its gloomy forebodings. With the dawn of another year, characterized as it must be with more of the elements of general prosperity, the lumber business will be all that the most sanguine can expect. The above result is not alluded to as a matter that should occasion the least surprise. On the contrary, any other issue would have been extraordinary. In the first place, lumber could not have been sold at lower rates than those prevailing, except at a sacrifice, and although a meek submission to losses may have been the order of the day a few

years ago, things are different now, so far as relates to this great interest. With a steady increase in the demand, and a still more steady diminution of the supply, the market is constantly gaining inherent strength. There is a growing disposition among capitalists to secure pine lands. Only within the past two or three days two eastern men, representing respectively \$200,000 and \$300,000 have been making anxious inquiry on this subject. Among those fully versed in the matter, the opinion is universal that all prudent investments are as certain of a rich reward as at any former period.

There has been more building in Michigan this season than in any corresponding period, and the structures are on the whole the best ever erected, including a very liberal proportion of churches, school houses, stores, manufacturing establishments, etc. These facts are very flattering, as indicating the greatly increased prosperity of the State.

The lumber market is very firm here, and at all the manufacturing points. Only one concern—that of Messrs. Brooks & Adams—has a very large stock, and there is no great surplus at any point. There are no stocks of consequence in the Saginaw Valley for sale, the larger shares having been bought ahead. If the present rate of demand continues to the end of the season, the stocks left on hand will be unprecedentedly light. In Chicago the trade is more healthy than was ever before known. This is no doubt due in a great measure to the opening up of the Pacific Road. There is no change in yard rates. Shingles are in very light supply for August. We quote:

First Clear per M.....	\$	45	00
Second do.....		42	00
Third do.....		33	00
Barn boards.....	16	00a	17 00
Common boards.....		16	00
Fencing boards.....		15	00
Cull boards.....	8	00a	10 00
Clear flooring, dressed.....	35	00a	40 00
Common do.....	24	00a	26 00
Best siding.....		20	00
Common do.....		17	00
Long joists.....	20	00a	25 00
Short joists and scantling.....		16	00
Bill stuff.....	18	00a	45 00
Deck plank.....		35	00
Shingles, shaved.....	4	00a	6 00
Shingles, sawed, A 1.....	5	00a	6 00
“ “ common.....	3	50a	4 00
Lath, per 1,000 pieces.....		2	75
White cedar posts.....	15a		25

## EAST SAGINAW.

This young and growing city is situated upon the eastern bank of the Saginaw river, 20 miles from its mouth, 200 miles from Detroit by water, and 95 by rail via Flint city and Pontiac. According to the census taken during the present year, (1868,) by parties interested, the population is 14,000 souls. Ten years ago, it was 2,500, which shows somewhat of an increase during the past decade.

In the year 1836, the land upon which a portion of the city now stands was entered by Dr. Charles Little, father of the late Col. W. L. P. Little. After awhile it changed hands, and the parties owning it, wishing to raise a certain sum of money, turned it out to a Detroit bank, as security for the same. In 1849, Norman Little, Esq., agent for Hoyt & Co. of New York city, purchased the site of the bank in question, with the intention of starting a village there. A short distance below where the Flint & Pere Marquette railroad depot is now located, a small clearing had been made by Hon. G. D. Williams of Saginaw City, a few years before, which was called "the farm." This farm was purchased by Mr. Little about this time, for agricultural purposes, while only that portion purchased of the bank was designed for village lots. Near where now stands the Bancroft House, one of the finest buildings in northern Michigan, a solitary log cabin, with its shake covered roof, stood in 1849, shut in by the green woods upon three sides, while the broad Saginaw rolled in primitive beauty before the door. The cabin was built by the American Fur Company, many years before, and at the time of which we speak, was occupied by Capt. Leon Snay, a French hunter and trapper. During the year 1835, a small clearing had been made in the neighborhood of where Bristol street now commences, and a large steam mill, of which we have previously spoken, was built, together with an office, boarding house, and a few board shanties, while upon a gentle eminence, commanding a fine view of Saginaw City and the river, stood the well remembered and we might say storied "Halls of the Montezumas," thus named by the proprietor, Curtis Emer-

son, Esq., he having previously, in a facetious moment, dubbed the little hamlet Buena Vista, by which name that portion of East Saginaw is still known by many.

When, however, in 1850, the village of East Saginaw was started, at a point one mile below, the two locations were by no means considered identical. After Norman Little conceived the idea of locating a town upon the east side of the river, the job of chopping and logging sufficient territory for the purpose was let to two brothers, Seth & Thomas Willey, the former being still a resident here. When a small space had been cleared on Water street, near the foot of Genessee street, a steam saw-mill, a boarding house, an office, a rough building called "the store," and a barn, were erected, which, with a few little shanties, formed the nucleus of the large and rapidly increasing city of East Saginaw. On the first day of May, 1850, a town meeting was called at the "Hall of the Montezumas," for the purpose of organizing the township of Buena Vista. This, be it remembered, was the first election and meeting of the kind held in the town. Stephen Little, Esq., was chosen chairman, Messrs. George Oliver and A. K. Penny, inspectors of the election, and Alfred M. Hoyt, clerk. Curtis Emerson was elected supervisor; C. W. Grant, town clerk; Stephen Little, town treasurer; Andrew Grant, George Oliver and Stephen Little, justices of the peace. The whole number of votes cast, including those of actual settlers, laborers, etc., were nineteen, all told. We may well imagine that the duties of the inspectors of the election were not very onerous or arduous upon that occasion.

After the permanent organization of the town, the little handful of settlers became sensible that they were entirely shut out from the world, as it were, their only means of egress being by water to Detroit, or the old territorial road which led out of Saginaw City, to which place they were obliged to go to be "let out." The country around East Saginaw being at that time considered low and wet, the question, How are we to have roads? was one of considerable importance. But Norman Little was alive to any emergency that might arise; his fortunes he had cast here, and

here he proposed to make his home, come what might. So he told the people that the only direct way of getting out of the wilderness was to build a plank road. Many shrugged their shoulders, shook their heads, and said it was all well enough to talk about plank roads and that sort of things, but who was to build them? Others said it was useless to think of building a plank road through such a low country as we had between this point and the "Bend of the Cass, where Mr. Little proposed to have it intersect the territorial road. Said he, "Gentlemen, I'll arrange this matter myself, if you'll only be patient, for we must certainly have some means of getting to Flint besides first going to Saginaw City." He therefore applied to the Legislature for a charter to build a plank road from a point on Saginaw river, containing a saw mill and a few shanties—which was as yet with scarcely a name, but which he called East Saginaw—to Flint, a little village thirty-two miles distant. When his application was presented, it met with violent opposition from certain old fogies, who considered the scheme a visionary one. By continual perseverance, however, he succeeded, "for," said they, "there certainly can be no harm in voting for a charter, because it will never amount to anything, one way or the other; besides, we will get rid of this man's importunities. The idea of building a plank road through that swampy country, is absurd; might as well think of building one to the moon!" It was, nevertheless, built, and in good traveling order in less than two years from the time of applying for the charter.

While the plank road question was pending, business by no means stood still in the "little clearing" by the river. Under the supervision of Mr. Little, a town was arising as if by magic, out of the forest, and the scene that presented itself was one of busy life and animation. A large and splendid flouring mill was erected and finished upon the bank of the river; soon after, an extensive warehouse with a substantial dock was built, and opposite, a fine, three-story, frame hotel, called the Irving House, sprung up about the same time. The plank road being now completed, a postal route was opened to Flint, a post-office established, and a four-

horse stagecoach brought a daily mail, while every day the cry was, "Still they come," for a perfect flood of emigration began to pour in, and the demand for village property became clamorous. Vessels and steamers began to visit the town; then came a demand for more docks. In every direction saw mills began to be visible, and the lumber trade grew and thrived. Although absorbed in business, the people were not unmindful of religious forms and ceremonies, if not taking a deeper interest in their souls' salvation, for when an occasional preacher, hearing of the unprovided spiritual condition of this little town, would stray off here, the rough board cabin standing near where the foot of Genessee street bridge now is, would be thrown open to him, and an attentive half-dozen hearers, seated upon wooden benches, would give respectful audience. Before the village had attained to its third year, it had so far transcended its original limits that it was found necessary to add to its territory, so the "old farm" was crowded out of town, and in its place more lots were surveyed out and eagerly taken up. Great inducements were offered to all who desired to locate here. Lots in what are now the best and most desirable business locations in the city, were then offered for from \$25 to \$50 per lot, the purchaser having his own time to pay for them. Occasionally an old foggy, attracted hither by the "excitement," as it was by some termed, would exclaim, as he viewed the busy scene, and heard the rattling of machinery and the sound of the hammer and the saw in every direction, "Bah!—all excitement—mushroom growth—soon die away, and then where will be all the money invested here? Docks and mills will soon rot away. Why, how can it be otherwise? There's no country around to support, it for it's all wilderness. Guess I'll not risk my money here." And the old gentleman, though really having an eye to business, but "couldn't see it" here, upon a sufficiently solid basis, would retire to his room to dream of "smash-ups" and large sums of money foolishly expended and lost in new town speculations, etc.

Business, however, continued to increase, inhabitants to flock in, and houses to spring up almost mysteriously, yet the anticipated smash-up and reaction came not.

In the year 1852, the writer established a select school in a small building located on the corner of Water and Hoyt streets. There was no other school in the town at that time. The whole number of scholars in attendance was about eighty, all of whom—those that are now living—are grown up men and women, and engaged in the various avocations of life. Some are located here; others in distant lands; some are sleeping in their graves. Many pleasant memories are associated in the writer's mind, with those days. During recess, the children would gather the wild flowers that grew abundantly in the green woods, a few rods from the school house door, and bring them as peace offerings to their teacher, when they happened to be a little tardy after the ringing of the bell calling them to their books.

The same year, the "old academy," on the corner of Jefferson and Hoyt streets, was built, at a cost of \$15,000. At that time the only manner of crossing the bayou to the school house was by means of a few boards or plank made into a sort of foot-bridge, which was anything but safe. When the water filled the bayou, both teachers and scholars who lived upon the opposite side, (in fact, but very few people resided on the east side then,) were obliged to be ferried over, or make a grand detour of Genessee street plank road. Unlike any other village, East Saginaw never had her district school. With a spirit strictly in keeping with the enterprise and thrift of the town, the first public institution of learning was a graded school, with all the appurtenances of a well regulated educational establishment. A competent principal, with a full corps of teachers, opened a school of three hundred scholars, with its various departments, from the primary to the higher classes.

After the erection of the school building, divine service was held here occasionally, for up to this year (1852) no church organization had as yet been effected in the village. All religious denominations, irrespective of creed or church forms, worshiped together. This year, however, the Methodist Episcopal church was organized, with a nucleus of six members, and Rev. A. C.

Shaw was sent here as its pastor. During the administration of Mr. Shaw, the first church edifice (Methodist) was erected. It stands on the corner of Washington and German streets, quite near the business heart of the city, although when built it was thought to be far from it, and rather in a retired situation. It is at present used by the Presbyterian society as a place of worship. This house was built by subscriptions and contributions from our citizens and friends abroad.

In the early part of the summer of 1854, a destructive fire broke out in town, which destroyed the sawmill before spoken of, a large hotel, and several dwelling houses, all of which were near the business portion of the new town. In addition to the above losses, over three million feet of pine lumber about the mill was destroyed, together with considerable dock. This was a terrible blow for our infant village. Scarcely had the work of reparation commenced, when another fearful and far more destructive fire than the first broke out in the very business centre of the place, laying waste about two entire blocks of buildings, including the Irving House, an extensive wholesale warehouse and dock, and several grocery establishments and dwelling houses. This fire was indeed looked upon as a public calamity. For awhile everything seemed to stand aghast, and men looked at each other in bewilderment, but not in despair. Before the embers had fairly ceased smoking, workmen were employed in clearing away the rubbish, and not many months elapsed ere a fine brick block reared its imposing front phoenix-like from the ashes of the Irving House, and it was not long before all traces of the fire were obliterated, and the burnt district covered with dwellings and places of business. The large warehouse, containing a store, which was among the destroyed property, was occupied by Col. W. L. P. Little & Co., and although the population here did not exceed 300 souls at that time, their sales amounted the first year to \$90,000, and the second year to \$250,000. This perhaps seems incredible, but it must be remembered that Saginaw City, Lower Saginaw, and the whole



farming country on the Tittabawassee, Flint and Cass rivers were in part supplied with trade from this establishment, which was complete in all its details.

Among those who first located here, and engaged in business, are the names of Moses B. Hess and his brother George, Menzo Stevens, C. W. Grant, Col. W. L. P. Little, W. F. Glasby, Curtis Emerson, S. W. Yawkey, Alexander English, John Elseffer, Seth and Thomas Willey, A. Ferguson and F. H. Koehler. These gentlemen, with the exception of three, still reside here, and are well to do in the world—the result of foresight and business capabilities. The first lawyers were Charles Hunt, W. L. Webber, and J. L. T. Fox.

E. N. Davenport established a ferry at the foot of Genessee street, in 1851, which consisted of a small row boat and a scow, propelled by muscle and poles. A few years later, the facilities were much increased by stretching a rope across the river, connecting with the scow by pulleys, and adding another row boat or two.

#### THE PRESS.

During the year 1853, two gentlemen, F. A. Williamson and A. J. Mason, came here for the avowed purpose of establishing a newspaper among us, provided they could obtain the necessary assistance, they being poor men. With their usual public spirit, our citizens opened their hearts and purses, and shortly after, a neat looking weekly newspaper, edited with tolerable ability, made its appearance, called "The Saginaw Enterprise." For awhile it prospered, but the first year or two of newspaper life being at best an up-hill business, it began to show signs of premature decay, and at the end of twelve months it languished, and would make its appearance only occasionally. Not long after, Perry Joslin, Esq., purchased the office, and from that time forward it was a live concern. In 1864, Mr. Francis Parth, who by the way has been connected with the Enterprise office since it first started, entered into partnership with Mr. Joslin, in the newspaper and job printing business. The following year, Col. C. V. Deland became a partner in the concern. In September of the same year, the paper was

enlarged, and a daily started in connection with the weekly. In the year 1866 the office was converted into a stock concern, with a capital of \$25,000. C. V. DeLand was editor in chief, T. B. Fox, local, and A. W. Abbey, business manager. Its present editor is W. R. Bates, its local, C. B. Headly, and business manager, G. F. Fish.

In July, 1859, George F. Lewis started the Courier, a weekly paper. In 1863 the office was replenished with new material, and the paper enlarged, Major E. W. Lyon entering the concern as a partner. In 1868 the Daily Courier was started, and runs in connection with the weekly. The publishers and proprietors are George F. Lewis, B. M. Thompson, E. W. Lyon and Joseph Seaman.

A German newspaper called the Saginaw Zeitung, has just been started here.

#### PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Considerable attention has been paid here to the education of children, our school system being perhaps as near perfect as it can be. There are within the city limits, four schools, all under the direction of a school board, namely, the Central, the First Ward, the Hoyt Street, and the Wadsworth primary schools.

#### THE CENTRAL SCHOOL

Occupies one of the finest brick edifices in the State, and is located on German street, midway between Clay and Rockwell streets. At present there are seven departments—the High School, Grammar, Intermediate, and four primary departments. There are about six hundred scholars in attendance, and ten teachers.

#### THE CARROL STREET SCHOOL

Is taught in a new and elegant structure, located on the corner of Carrol and Warren streets. It has one Intermediate and three Primary departments, and accommodates about three hundred and fifty pupils, taught by five teachers.

## HOYT STREET SCHOOL

Upon the corner of Hoyt and Jefferson streets, is kept in what is known as the old "academy building," and contains four departments—one Intermediate and three Primary. About three hundred pupils attend this school, in charge of four teachers.

## WADESWORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Is taught in a small building on the corner of Genessee street and German Colony road. This school has three Primary grades of fifty or sixty scholars, and is taught by one teacher.

The schools are under the general superintendence of Professor J. Estabrook.

The members of the present BOARD OF EDUCATION are as follows:

Edwin Aiken, President; A. P. Brewer, J. S. Estabrook, C. O. Garrison, G. W. Merrill, Leand Simoneau, Inspectors; George Maurer, Secretary.

STANDING COMMITTEES FOR 1868-69.—Teachers and School Books—J. S. Estabrook, G. W. Merrill, L. Simoneau. School Houses—L. Simoneau, G. W. Merrill, C. O. Garrison. Schools—A. P. Brewer, J. S. Estabrook, G. W. Merrill. Auditing—G. W. Merrill, A. P. Brewer, C. O. Garrison.

The Germania Society carry on a school at present, on North 3d street, containing three departments, with over two hundred pupils, and conducted by a principal and two teachers. The school is under the control of the Society Board. C. Watz is Principal. Many branches are taught girls here, unknown to common schools, such as knitting, sewing, gymnastics, etc. Particular attention is paid to singing, in which, in many respects, the German children excel the American. A large and elegant brick school edifice will soon be built by the Society, on Tuscola street, between Third and Fourth streets, which will cost \$18,000. The Germans are not to be outdone in matters pertaining to the education of their children. As citizens we have reason to feel proud of them.

## CHURCHES.

During the year 1868, four new and beautiful church edifices were completed in this city: the Congregational, at a cost of \$60,000; the Methodist Episcopal, \$50,000; First Baptist, \$40,000; German Methodist, \$8,000. The following church directory speaks for itself:

## CHURCH DIRECTORY.

**EPISCOPAL**—St. Paul's Church. Organized Feb. 2, 1864. Service at 10½ a. m. and 7 p. m. Rev. George B. Eastman, rector.

**UNITARIAN**—Penney's Hall, corner of Genessee and Franklin streets. Rev. J. F. Walker, pastor. Services at 10½ o'clock a. m., and 7 in the evening.

**CONGREGATIONAL**—Corner of Jefferson and Hayden streets. Rev. J. G. W. Cowles, pastor. Services at 10 1-2 o'clock, a. m., and 7 3-4 p. m. Organized Sept. 8, 1857.

**PRESBYTERIAN**—Old M. E. Church, corner German and Washington streets. Preaching morning and evening, at usual hours.

**METHODIST EPISCOPAL**—Jefferson street. Rev. J. H. McCarty. Services morning and evening, at usual hours. Organized 1852.

**FIRST BAPTIST**—New brick church, corner Jefferson and German streets. Rev. H. L. Morehouse, pastor. Services at the usual hours, morning and evening. Organized 1858.

**CENTRAL BAPTIST**—Corner of Washington and German streets. Rev. J. E. Vining, pastor.

**CATHOLIC**—Hoyt street. Service at the usual hours. F. Vanderbom, pastor.

**UNION MISSION SCHOOL**—Bellevue Hall every Sunday p. m., at 4 o'clock.

**GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH**—Corner of German and Second streets. Preaching at 10 1-2 a. m., and 1 1-2 and 7 o'clock p. m. Rev. Conrad Volz, pastor.

**UNIVERSALIST**—Services in the morning, at Good Templar's Hall, at 10 1-0 o'clock. Services conducted by Rev. C. P. Nash of Bay City.

**GERMAN M. E. CHURCH**—Warren between Lapeer and Tuscola streets. Rev. Gustavus Bertram, pastor. Services at 10 1-2 a. m., and 7 1-2 p. m.

**ZION BAPTIST (colored)**— — Walker, pastor. Meetings in old Union Hall, Jefferson street.

## PUBLIC HALLS.

There are four public halls for lectures, concerts, theatres, etc., besides Masonic and Odd Fellows Hall, namely: Irving Hall, Jackson Hall, Penney Hall, and Good Templar's Hall. The two first are commodious, and elegantly finished, being furnished with extensive stages, scenery, dressing rooms, and all the appurtenances of first-class theatres. Either one will comfortably seat 1,000 persons and upwards. Central Market Building, on the corner of Genessee and Cass streets, recently erected by Antony Schmitz is a beautiful and imposing structure, 60 by 142 feet, and two stories in height, designed as a city market place, being furnished with stalls and other conveniences for business.

## MASONIC.

The Saginaw Lodge No. 77, obtained its charter from the Grand Lodge in the year 1856, and was the first one formed in the Saginaw Valley. The fraternity have a fine hall, 32 by 50 feet, well furnished and lighted with gas.

Saginaw Valley Chapter No. 31 Royal Arch Masons was chartered Jan. 12, 1864, and holds its meetings upon the first Thursday of every month.

## ODD FELLOWS.

O-Saw-Wa-Bon Lodge No. 14, was instituted June 2d, 1855. As the town at that time was small, and the business men limited, the lodge did not flourish, or meet the success it really merited; so after a brief, struggling existence of nearly two years, the organization ceased to exist here. During the year 1865, just ten years from the time of its first organization, the lodge was reinstated, and is now one of the first lodges in the State.

An encampment called the Valley Encampment No. 20, was instituted here May 10, 1866, and meets in Odd Fellows Hall, on the first and third Wednesday of each month.

## GOOD TEMPLARS.

A lodge of this order, numbering upwards of two hundred members, meets every Monday evening, at the Good Templars Hall. It was instituted Nov. 24, 1865, and is in a flourishing condition.

## AMERICAN PROTESTANT ASSOCIATION.

East Saginaw Lodge No. 1 was organized November, 1866, with seven charter members. It now numbers one hundred and fifty in good standing. A chapter has also been established here, in connection with the above lodge.

## YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION.

This Association, which now numbers four hundred members, with a steady increase, was organized Aug. 18, 1865. It is under the management of an efficient board, elected annually by its members. Every winter an interesting course of lectures is provided, the very best speakers being engaged. Any resident of the county above the age of eighteen years, is eligible to membership. An initiation fee of two dollars is required, and also two dollars annually, as dues. The Association has an extensive and well selected library, to which every member has free access. As the Society own a building lot, it is quite likely that ere long it will erect a structure that will be an ornament to the city, in which to meet.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The city has a well organized fire department, consisting of a rotary steamer, with hose cart, and about two thousand feet of rubber hose, a span of powerful horses, always in harness and ready for action at a moment's notice; also three hand engines, with hose carts, together with a hook and ladder company, well manned and equipped. The new engine house on the corner of German and Cass streets, is built of brick, after an elegant design, is two stories high, with a lofty tower, in which is placed a fine fire bell. The engineer with his family resides in the upper portion of the building, and is obliged to be always on hand, or furnish an able substitute during his absence.

## EAST SAGINAW CITY STREET RAILWAY.

Company organized Nov. 10, 1864. Road built to South Saginaw, a distance of three miles, the following April. The company at present own seven cars, three of which run regularly every

twenty minutes, the entire length of the road. Present officers, Wm. J. Bartow, President and Superintendent; M. B. Hess, Treasurer, and T. E. Morris, Secretary.

#### EAST SAGINAW GAS COMPANY.

Organized May 23, 1863. Original capital \$50,000, but in October, 1866, it was increased to \$150,000. Henry Day, President; Wm. Remsen, J. K. Rose and J. L. Ketcham, Directors; J. L. Ketcham, Treasurer and Superintendent. This company has laid up to the present time, upwards of eight miles of main pipe. This season the city is to be furnished with street lamps.

#### ICE ESTABLISHMENT.

This establishment commenced operations here in 1862. The first year two men could do all the work of supplying ice, with two one-horse wagons. At that time, 300 tons were made use of. Now 5,000 tons are used, and eleven men, with eight wagons, are busily engaged distributing ice during the summer season. M. C. Mower is proprietor and manager.

#### SAGINAW RIVER BRIDGE COMPANY.

This company was organized January 21, 1863, and built, the following year, what is known as the Genessee street bridge, which spans the river from this point. It is over 700 feet in length, and is furnished with a draw to allow vessels and other crafts to pass through. Cost, \$50,000.

The Bristol street bridge was built shortly after the other one, and by the same company, after the same patent. This is considerable longer than the first, and has two draws.

East Saginaw was incorporated as a village during the year 1855, and the following officers under the incorporation act were elected:—President of the Council, Norman Little; Recorder, Charles B. Mott; Trustees, W. L. P. Little, David Lyon, J. E. Voorhies, C. M. Curtis, A. H. Mershon; Assessors, F. R. Copeland, W. F. Glasby; Treasurer, S. C. Beach; Marshal, A. L. Rankin.

In the year 1859 it received a city charter, and was duly incorporated under its provisions. The following were the first city officers elected:—Mayor, W. L. P. Little; Recorder, D. W. C. Gage; Controller, Wm. J. Bartow; Treasurer, James F. Brown; Marshal, F. A. Curtis; Aldermen, C. B. Mott, John S. Estabrook, Alexander Ferguson, W. F. Glasby, G. W. Wilcox; City Constable, A. L. Rankin; School Inspectors, Asahel Disbrow, C. B. Jones, John J. Wheeler, G. J. Dorr, Volusin Bude, S. B. Knapp.

The present city officers are as follows:—Mayor, James L. Ketcham; Recorder, Charles H. Camp; Treasurer, Albert R. Wedthoff; Controller, C. V. DeLand; Marshal, Gilbert F. Chandler; Aldermen—first ward, Martin Smith, F. W. Carlisle, B. B. Buckhout; second ward, Peter Guisler, G. W. Morley, William Zimmerman; third ward, A. B. Wood, J. G. Owen, L. H. Eastman. Justices of the Peace, Hezekiah Miller, G. A. Flanders, E. A. Sturtevant. Sewer Commissioners, Noah C. Richardson, Egbert Ten Eyck, Volusin Bude. Cemetery Commissioners, Morgan L. Gage, Chester B. Jones, Charles V. DeLand. Street Commissioner, E. A. Moore.

A portion of the principal business streets are being paved this season, with the Nicholson pavement. A splendid system of sewerage drains the city, and the bayous that formerly were so obnoxious to the eye and so detrimental to health, are both drained and filled up, and the most stringent measures have been adopted to insure the good health of the city. An efficient police organization, under the metropolitan system, has been formed, and in all its municipal regulations this city to-day stands A number 1.

#### SOUTH SAGINAW.

Sometime during the year 1848, A. K. Penney located the land upon which a large portion of this village is situated, and commenced working it as a farm, in which he was highly successful, being a practical farmer. In 1858 William Gallagher bought him out, and removed there with his family the same year. After the discovery of salt in the Saginaw Valley, Mr. Gallagher conceived



the happy idea of laying out a town here, and in less than a year from that time a fine village was under way. Mills and salt works were erected, docks built, and business was the order of the day. In 1864 the East Saginaw Street Railway completed its terminus here, thus almost identifying this place with East Saginaw. This village, until quite recently, was known as Salina, but under its incorporation charter it was changed to South Saginaw. The population is about 2,500 souls. It has two or three church organizations and one church edifice, also a fine graded school, conducted under the union principle, with 500 scholars and seven teachers. The school building is a fine structure, costing \$10,000.

#### ZILWAUKEE.

This village contains about 500 inhabitants, and is located upon the Saginaw river, seven miles below Saginaw City. The Jackson Lansing & Saginaw railroad passes directly through the village. The land upon which the town stands was entered by C. Fitzhugh, in the year 1835. In 1847, Daniel Johnson built a steam saw mill here, without, however, any intention on his part at that time of making this anything more than simply a lumbering point. Subsequently, circumstances induced him to locate a village here, and under his auspices quite a flourishing town arose, and business assumed a lively aspect. The passage of the railroad through the town last season, gave a new impulse to trade. The Messrs. Driggs are extensively engaged in the manufacture of salt here, under the Chapin system; and Rust, Eaton & Co., also J. H. Jerome, have two or three sawmills in active operation. Although the land appears rather low in the immediate vicinity, the existence of several cultivated and fruit growing farms a short distance back, prove the fact that the soil is peculiarly adapted to agricultural purposes. With its commercial advantages, this must one day be considerable of a town.

#### CARROLLTON.

This place is located opposite East Saginaw, and is a point of much interest to lumber and salt manufacturers, who have invested quite extensively here. The land upon which Carrollton proper is

located, was entered by Judge Carroll, about the year 1835, we think, but it was not until after salt was discovered here that it aspired to much distinction as a village. The long line of houses, mills, salt blocks, etc., commencing at the west end of Genessee street bridge, and usually known as Florence, is really but a part and parcel of the village of Carrollton, it being in the same township. Population about 600. Many doing business here, reside elsewhere.

#### GERMAN SETTLEMENTS.

There are several flourishing German settlements in the valley, which are composed of the best industrial element in the world. Frankenmuth, located in town 11 n., of range 6 e., and in the heart of a splendid farming district, contains over 1,200 souls. This township was settled in 1845, by a few Germans, who, with their pastor, the Rev. George Cramer, commenced clearing the land and erecting dwellings, a Lutheran church and a schoolhouse. They also made bridges, and roads, and improvements generally. The township is one of the best in the valley, and its selection evinces at once the good taste and judgment of those who selected it. It contains, aside from its neat, tasty dwellings and outhouses, two schoolhouses, two churches, two stores, postoffice, sawmills, shops, etc.

Frankenlust, Frankentrost, Amelete, Blumfield, Deerfield and Frankenhalf are all large, flourishing German settlements. These settlements contain churches and schools, and are peopled with an intelligent and industrious class of Germans, most of whom have become wealthy by their economical habits and their skill in tilling the soil. Everything about these settlements exhibits signs of thrift, and it is a matter of great congratulation to see the accession to our population composed of so industrious a class.

#### BRIDGEPORT CENTRE.

This is a thriving little village, formerly better known as the "Bend of the Cass," being pleasantly located upon the Cass river, about six miles from East Saginaw; also upon the Saginaw and Flint plank road, on the line of the Flint & Pere Marquette rail-

road. It contains about 500 inhabitants, and is in the midst of a splendid farming country, which is being finely improved. In the year 1884, C. A. Lull raised the first crop of wheat in the county, between here and Saginaw City, and also introduced the first sheep here, from whose wool Mrs. Lull made the first web of cloth manufactured in the Saginaw Valley. The village contains two hotels, three stores, three shingle mills and a broom factory. It has two churches, and a fine brick school house upon the union system. Within a few years this village has visibly improved, and will probably one day be a large farming town. Salt is also manufactured here, in limited quantities.

#### ST. CHARLES.

This village, containing about 1,000 inhabitants, is situated at the forks of Bad river, eighteen miles above Saginaw City. It is located on the line of the Jackson, Lansing & Saginaw railroad, and is considerable of a lumber point. The river to this place is also navigable for small steamers, which, until the opening of the above railroad, did a thriving business. The land in the immediate vicinity of the town is rather low, yet very arable and productive. Back, however, it is more rolling in places, and well adapted to agricultural purposes. Since the completion of the railroad, the village has improved wonderfully, and will without doubt, at no distant day, be a place of considerable note. The country around it is being rapidly settled, and when the lumber shall have been exhausted in this region, the products of the farm, together with the manufactories that will necessarily arise, will usurp its trade, and help maintain the credit of the Saginaw country as a farming section.

#### CHESANING.

This village, which is situated upon the banks of the Shiawassee river, about twenty miles above Saginaw City, contains a population of 1000 souls. The greater portion of the land upon which the village is located, was entered by different parties in 1854, under the Graduation Act. Chesaning was detached from

the township of Northampton, and organized in the year 1849. From the north line of this village to Owosso, a distance of about sixteen miles, the Shiawassee river has a sufficient fall to furnish a water power or mill site every three miles. The village derives its name from a large stone or boulder found in its vicinity, and which in the Indian dialect is Chesaning. The country around this town is well adapted to farming purposes. In some places back from the river, the land is rolling, with here and there a running brook. Wheat has been raised in this vicinity with the best success. The Jackson, Lansing & Saginaw railroad passes through the town. The place contains two good hotels, four stores, one grist mill, and a planing mill. It is also quite a lumbering point. This town presents many inducements to those wishing to locate in a thriving young place.

#### RAILROADS.

The Saginaw Valley, which but a few short years since had no means of ingress or egress save those afforded by the river and one plank road, now has its echoes awakened by rushing locomotives, and trains of railroad cars, on at least three roads, two of which completely sandwich the Saginaw river, and another crosses it. The roads in active operation are the Flint & Pere Marquette, Bay City & East Saginaw, and the Jackson, Lansing & Saginaw. These railroads afford us a safe and easy transit to any portion of the country, connecting, of course, with other railways all over the United States. The Flint & Pere Marquette road, which has been continued to about seven miles above Midland City, will ere long be extended to the Muskegon river, a distance of about fifty miles from Midland. This link will open up a thoroughfare for a large tract of territory heretofore almost inaccessible, and afford means of immediate intercommunication with the rich and thriving valley of the Muskegon.

The extension of the Jackson, Lansing & Saginaw railroad from Wenona, its present terminus, to Mackinaw, has been decided on, and the route surveyed out. The work on it will undoubtedly be pushed forward to completion at the earliest day practicable.

In regard to the extension of this road at the other end of the route to Fort Wayne, Indiana, the Saginaw Enterprise, says:

The prospect of building a railroad connecting the Saginaw Valley with the south, or a north and south line running through the Saginaw Valley, look more favorable at the present time than ever before. A short time after the visit of Mr. L'Homedieu, President of several railroads centering at Cincinnati, railroad meetings were held at Jackson and elsewhere, for the purpose of considering the project of extending the J. L. & S. R. R. to Fort Wayne, and thence to connect with Cincinnati. At Jackson a committee was appointed to raise \$80,000 towards the project by subscription. Last Saturday evening a meeting was held at Jackson, when the committee reported that \$60,000 of the \$80,000 had already been subscribed. Mr. H. H. Smith, Superintendent of the J. L. & S. Railroad, stated that a company had been formed at Fort Wayne to build a road to the State line, in the direction of Jackson; that \$75,000 had been subscribed in the city of Fort Wayne alone; that it was proposed to form a company to build a road from Jackson, to intersect with theirs at the State line, and that as soon as \$200,000 were subscribed along the line of the route in Michigan, the two companies would be consolidated, and that within sixty days from the time the \$80,000 was raised in Jackson, the balance of the \$200,000 could be raised along the line, and work commenced. Mr. Woodward, the engineer, stated that he had surveyed a distance of 30 1-2 miles on one route, and reported the people along the line as very anxious that the road be built, and ready to subscribe liberally. Several gentlemen representing points along the proposed line were present, and represented that the people were ready and anxious to support the project.

At Cincinnati we learn of but little being done, although the line is being prominently discussed. The Railroad Record, a paper published in Cincinnati, and several other journals, are agitating the subject. The Record proposes a through line from Florida to Mackinaw, through Kentucky, Tennessee and Georgia, but this project is one of time, and more visionary than otherwise. In each project the Saginaw Valley and Northern Michigan are conspicuously mentioned, and its importance to the south. The Ft. Wayne route, however, seems to be a settled fact. The line has been mostly surveyed, and an amount of money nearly sufficient to commence work subscribed. The people want it, and the necessities of the country seem to demand it. While the Saginaw Valley will be as greatly benefitted as any other part of the State, she is not called upon to subscribe.

The distance saved from this Valley to Cincinnati by this route is about 80 miles. The Monroe, Wayne & Holly Railroad, which will connect with the Flint & Pere Marquette road at Holly is being rapidly pushed forward. This route will save us a distance of about 30 miles in going to Cincinnati.

A new road called the East Saginaw and Port Huron railroad, will soon be commenced, the route having been surveyed out, an able report of the survey has been submitted and published by Engineer E. G. Goddard. This road, which will commence at the east line of the city of East Saginaw, near Jayne street, will intersect the Grand Trunk road about three miles from Port Huron, unless it indeed connects with it at that point. This railroad passes through some of the best farming lands in the State, and when completed, will open up a new and desirable route to the east from the Saginaw Valley.

One or two other railroad projects are under consideration, in which the Saginaw Valley is interested, and which time will certainly develope.

#### PLANK ROADS.

The following plank roads radiate from the Saginaw Valley :—Saginaw & Genessee plank road, being the first road of the kind in the valley, and built in 1851. For many years this was our only road "through the woods," as a trip to Flint was then termed. East Saginaw & Vassar plank road, length nineteen and a half miles. East Saginaw & Watrousville plank road, length about twenty miles. The above roads all have their starting point from East Saginaw. The Saginaw & Gratiot plank road commences at Saginaw City, and is now being rapidly pushed forward. Its length will be thirty-six miles. The Bay City & Junction plank road joins the Watrousville road about twelve miles from Bay City. The Bay City & Midland plank road is finished from Wewona to the town of Williams. All of these roads are opening up and developing some of the richest agricultural sections in the State. Settlers are locating all along their routes, and in many places smiling farms are gladdening the eye.

## STATE ROADS.

The Midland & Houghton Lake State road bids fair to be completed at no distant day. This is one of the most important roads in the country, as it opens a direct communication with a vast expanse of territory, rich in natural resources which only require a proper system of roads in order to develop them. Only penetrate that region with good passable roads, and the fertile woodlands and intervalles will be settled by an industrious class of yeomanry, who will soon change the aspect of the country. Another State road from Kaw-kaw-lin to Cheboygan, a distance of over 200 miles, has been surveyed and a report submitted to the Commissioners. This road will open a line that will be of the utmost importance to the valley of the Saginaw.

## BAY COUNTY.

This County was set off from Saginaw, Saranac, and parts of other counties, in the year 1857, and the Act of organization approved February 17th of the same year. In the foregoing pages of our work we have included this county as part and parcel of the Saginaw Valley, without regard to locality, when speaking of the general resources and wealth of the same. Bay City, the county seat, which was formerly known as "Lower Saginaw," it having had its name changed in 1857, is a prosperous and beautiful city, containing about 9000 inhabitants. It is situated on the east bank of the Saginaw river, four miles from its mouth and about fifteen below East Saginaw. The first settlement of this place is nearly identical with that of Saginaw City, as a civil community. Up to the year 1836 the place was simply a small trading post and occupied by only fifteen families. There were here at this time a Post Office, one Store, and one small Hotel, which we presume did not transact a very heavy business. Not unlike Saginaw City, but little progress had been made here until about the year 1850, when emigration began to come in, although slowly. The discovery of Salt in the valley attracted capitalists hither, who invested heavily. As a commercial point Bay City is probably destined to eclipse all other points in the Saginaw Valley. The city

is beautifully located and embraces an area of about three square miles. Many large and substantial brick blocks, public buildings, churches and school houses evinces the spirit of enterprise that predominates among its citizens. One of its principal business streets is paved with the Nicholson pavement, and a street railway traverses it two miles. All of the most modern systems of improvements have been adopted here to make this what it is rapidly attaining to, a first class city. Its municipal and social regulations are superior, and in all its details nothing is lacking to render it as a place of business and residence, a most desirable location. The Fraser House is perhaps, one of the finest structures in Michigan, being located in the heart of the city, and containing all the appertenances of a first class hotel. The Bay City & East Saginaw Railroad, commencing here, joins the Flint & Pere Marquette Railway at East Saginaw. Another railroad project is under consideration by the citizens of this place, which will afford them a nearer and cheaper route East, in their opinion, than any yet opened. A fine draw bridge spans the river here.

#### PORTSMOUTH.

This village, which closely joins Bay City, contains about 3000 inhabitants. The principal business here is the manufacture of lumber and salt. Its history is about identical with that of Bay City. Within a few years past it has improved very much. Its churches, school houses, places of business and fine residences speak much for the enterprising character of its inhabitants.

#### WENONA, BANGOR, SALZBURG.

Opposite Bay City, and at present the northern terminus of the Jackson, Lansing & Saginaw Railroad, is Wenona, a young and rising village of about 600 inhabitants, having sprung up within three or four years. Its prospects are flattering and it is beyond doubt destined to become an important commercial point ere many years. Bangor, a little lumbering town a short distance below, contains about 400 inhabitants. Salzburg, which joins Wenona on the South, is a small village, the inhabitants of which are principally engaged in the lumber and salt business.



## A STRANGERS VIEW OF THE SAGINAW VALLEY.

Rev. Dr. Joseph P. Thompson, of New York city, has recently been spending some days in Saginaw. In a letter to the Congregationalist, he says:

"There is not a city in the whole West to which I would take a foreigner whom I desired to impress with the growth and prosperity of American enterprise, than to East Saginaw. I do not even except Chicago, for at Saginaw one gets nearer to the roots of things, and can trace every inch of growth. And if knowledge and religion shall be favored throughout the West as they are at Saginaw, the West has before it not only a great material future, but a sure and lasting prosperity, a true civilization."

We also take from his letter this extract, in which he demonstrates the permanence of the prosperity of the thriving towns of the Saginaw Valley:

"But what assurance is there that this will last? Is not East Saginaw a mere mushroom growth? If the Saginaw river now ships to market 400,000,000 feet of lumber per annum, will it not soon exhaust its own supplies, and dwindle in its staple business, as some towns in Maine have done? The answer to this is given in the peculiar configuration of the lumber region drained by the Saginaw and its tributaries. The Saginaw is like the trunk of a Banyan tree, whose tributaries reach out widely upon both sides and bend down almost to the line of its mouth, thus draining, unitedly, a much wider region than could be traversed by a much longer stream of but a single stem. It is computed that the ten tributaries of the Saginaw traverse a region measuring 150 miles in each direction. Nearly 100 townships of fine timber lie upon their borders, containing a supply of upwards of 5,000,000,000 feet, which at present rates it would require more than twenty years to exhaust. When the land is cleared it proves excellent for tillage, and the country will be rich in agricultural products. Besides these, the supply of salt seems inexhaustible. The brine thrown up by artesian wells contains about 90 per cent. of saline matter, and it is estimated that the present yield, if worked up to its highest capacity, would produce more than 1,000,000 barrels of salt per annum."

## CONCLUSION.

The favorable geographical position of Saginaw—its central location in the state—its facilities for commerce and shipment afforded by the river and adjacent lakes, as well as the various railroads that are opening up the valley, and the vast resources alluded to in the foregoing pages, forming the basis of an immense trade—its excellent farming lands, equaling if not excelling in fertility the far-famed Valley of Genesee in the State of New York, all combine to render its rivers and railroads at no distant day the most important avenues for trade in the peninsula, and its business points, marts of enterprise, thrift and importance, second to none in the United States. Our railroad system in particular, is beginning to meet the heretofore unprovided for exigencies of its business, and to aid in developing the immense latent resources of Northern Michigan. These facts have not escaped the attention of capitalists, whom we find investing liberally in all manner of projects and enterprises in the Saginaw Valley, especially those of railroads and plank roads, which will beyond doubt amply repay more than fourfold all investments in those directions. We have already dwelt somewhat at length upon these roads, but will simply allude to two of our railroads again in connection with their northern extension. While Detroit, Cleveland and Chicago are loudly descanting upon their respective claims to the advantages of the great mineral trade of Lake Superior, and are inviting capitalists to avail themselves of these advantages which their favorable geographical position affords for securing that vast trade, by the establishment of manufactories for the working of the raw material, it is perhaps little dreamed that Saginaw possesses advantages far superior to any of those places for the securing of that trade, not only in the abundance of its facilities for smelting purposes and the successful prosecution of all the details of the work, but in respect to its peculiarly favorable position, and is only awaiting the termination of these northern railroad extensions to render it the most convenient point for that business in the state, being so easy of access to all the markets east or west.

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